

North and Poindexter in slush fund for Contra rebels scandal

Reagan aides go in arms deal row

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In an astonishing disclosure that added to the fire in America over the Iran affair, President Reagan announced yesterday that Admiral John Poindexter, his National Security Adviser, had resigned, and Colonel Oliver North, the shadowy military adviser in the NSC had been sacked, following a secret operation in which money from arms sales to Iran was diverted for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

No successor to Admiral Poindexter has yet been appointed, and Mr Reagan said a full commission would now undertake a "comprehensive review" of the role and procedures of the National Security Council staff in the conduct of foreign and national security policy.

Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, promising to give full and immediate details to Congress, said that between \$10 million (\$7.1 million) and \$30 million was taken by representatives of Israel, who sold the US-made weapons to Iran, put into Swiss bank accounts established by supporters of the Contras, and diverted to Central America.

No one in the US Government knew about this apart from Colonel North, though Admiral Poindexter was aware for some time that



Admiral Poindexter: Asked to be posted back to Navy.

something was going on. A full inquiry is now under way to see whether criminal charges should be laid, and against whom.

President Reagan, tense and grim, said in a hurriedly convened press conference, he had not been fully informed of

this transaction, which "raises serious questions of propriety".

Over the weekend a Justice Department investigation had shown that one aspect of the President's Iran policy was "seriously flawed".

He said: "I'm deeply troubled that the implementation of a policy aimed at resolving a truly tragic situation in the Middle East has resulted in such controversy."

He added: "While I cannot reverse what has happened, I'm initiating steps to assure that the implementation of all future foreign policy and national security policy initiatives will proceed only in accordance with my authorization."

The disclosure of the slush fund for the Contras comes as a bombshell as the Administration struggles to regain credibility.

The Swiss accounts were set up at a time when official US

Government aid to the Contras was banned by Congress. All the arms were sent after January 1986, but the \$100 million in military and humanitarian aid voted by Congress this year has only just begun to be transferred to the Contras.

The evidence of a Contra link came to light when Justice Department investigators found an apparent discrepancy between what the

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arms should have cost and what was actually received from the Iranians. Precise details are still being sought, and Mr Meese was unable to say whether any US citizens had broken the law in the transactions.

The Administration has told Congress that the value of the US arms supplies to Iran was about \$12 million. All of this was received by the Department of Defence.

It appears that the Israelis - who, Mr Meese insisted, were acting on their own and not as government officials - were paid far more for the arms by the Iranians than anyone knew. They then, with the presumed encouragement of Colonel North and Contra supporters, paid the balance into the Swiss accounts for the Contras to draw on.

Mr Meese, under a barrage of questions, said that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who strongly advised against the arms sales to Iran, would stay at his post. So would all the other Administration officials, including Mr Donald Regan, the White House chief of staff.

He refused to criticize Mr Shultz's public distancing of himself from the Administration over the affair and he denied that he had recommended with other California

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Colonel North: Shadowy military adviser sacked from the National Security Council.

Chelsea barracks bomber gets life

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Patrick McLaughlin, sentenced to life for an INLA plot to bomb Chelsea barracks, went to prison last night leaving behind a terrorist trail linking the Irish terrorist group to Action Directe in France.

McLaughlin, aged 26, unemployed from Londonderry, was told by Mr Justice Kenneth Jones at the Central Criminal Court, "There is only one sentence appropriate, prison for life."

Part of the 40lbs of explosives planted by McLaughlin and his unit last November is thought to be from a cache stolen by Action Directe. The explosives left outside the barracks included French material called Gelsurite and used by Action Directe. A consignment of the explosive was stolen in France in 1984.

The left wing French terrorist group was held responsible last week for the killing of the head of Renault, in France. It is known to have shared explosives with the Communist Fighting Cells in Belgium and the Red Army Faction in West Germany.

Members of the INLA unit travelled to London last year in a Ford camper van which was taken from Northern Ireland to France and Belgium. The man who bought the camper in Ulster was held in June this year at Le Havre with four others when French police halted what they alleged was a major INLA gun smuggling operation.

The camper was the transporter for an explosives consignment intended to mark the return of the INLA to the British mainland. The INLA has been dormant on the mainland since its first and only attack in 1979 which killed Mr Airey Neave, the Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland.

The target for the attack by a unit of up to half a dozen was to be Chelsea Barracks and the total explosives, twice the amount used at Harrods, would have created carnage.

The plan may have been to explode one small device, leading police and soldiers towards larger devices, packed with nuts and bolts, to create lethal shrapnel. The unit may also have planned a series of

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Shadowy world of disgraced colonel

By Philip Jacobson

If half the rumours about Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver L. North that have been doing the rounds in Washington are true, President Reagan was employing a combustible combination of "gun-ho" adventurer and deep-thinking professional soldier. But as befits the man said to have been running the Administration's most sensitive clandestine operations for the past five years, North was a distinctly shadowy and elusive figure.

Journalists investigating his reported involvement at the centre of the White House's controversial weapons-for-Amerian hostages negotiations with Iran soon found the National Security Council, where North worked as Deputy Director of Political-Military

Affairs had even forbidden the release of his previous record with the Marine Corps.

Former comrades from the 43-year-old North's days in counter-insurgency warfare in Vietnam were hardly more communicative about allegations that he had been responsible for recruiting and supervising a private network of Vietnam veterans to parachute military supplies to the Nicaraguan Contras after the 1984 vote in Congress to cut off all US military aid.

It was no more possible to confirm seemingly well-informed reports that North had been involved in advance planning of the American invasion of Grenada in 1983 and subsequently in the

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MPs agog at MI5 man's claims on role of Rothschild

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Whitehall's latest security row brought growing signs of severe Government embarrassment in the Commons yesterday.

MPs were agog at the latest claims from former MI5 employee, Mr Peter Wright, about the role played by Lord Rothschild, a former head of the Downing Street Think Tank, in persuading Mr Wright to pass information to author Mr Chapman Pincher in 1980.

They wanted to know whether he was acting with the connivance of No 10, the agreement of the security services or merely off his own bat in persuading Mr Wright to make his revelations that way rather than by passing them direct to the Prime Minister as he had first wanted to do.

In the Commons yesterday Mrs Thatcher sought to turn the attack on Labour, with the implied complaint that Mr Neil Kinnock and his colleagues had abandoned the traditional bi-partisan policy on security issues.

This brought angry protests at the end of Question Time from Mr Neil Kinnock who insisted that the only question he had raised related to the decision of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General,

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Murders suspect arrested

By Our Crime Reporter

Detectives investigating the murder of a schoolgirl, and two young women, in attacks over the past year in London, Hertfordshire and Surrey, were last night questioning a man arrested on Sunday.

The suspect is being questioned about the death of Alison Day, aged 19, whose body was found in a canal last January; Maartje Tamboezer, aged 15, who was attacked near Guildford in April, and Anne Lock, a recently married television worker who vanished last May.

Her body was found six weeks later.

All three victims were assaulted and strangled. The man behind the killings has also been linked to a long list of rapes and attacks, in London, under investigation by Operation Hart, a special Scotland Yard unit.

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Tomorrow

The ear of the President



In the troubled White House Nancy Reagan is no ordinary First Lady. A profile of the most influential adviser of them all.

Portfolio Gold

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was won yesterday by Mrs J.W. Smith of Ferndown, Dorset. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio list, page 27; how to play, information service, page 20.

TIMES BUSINESS

Dollar falls

The dollar fell below two marks, hit by a sharp drop in US factory orders and loss of market confidence in the Reagan Administration after the Poindexter resignation. Page 21

Barclays slide

Shares in Barclays Bank slid 10p to 477p after rising sharply on Monday when the company announced it was selling its stake in Barclays National Bank of South Africa. Page 21

TIMES SPORT

Higgins' fate

Alex Higgins, the former snooker world champion, today faces the possibility of a long suspension after allegedly hitting a tournament director in the face. Page 42

Calls to Bar

Calls to the Bar in the Michaelmas term are published today. Page 18

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Fowler backs free needles

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is close to a decision to issue free needles to drug addicts as part of the campaign against Aids.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, supports the idea and a decision will be taken shortly by Lord Whitelaw's Cabinet committee, which is co-ordinating government action against the disease.

Mr Fowler and Mr Tony Newton, the Minister of Health, are expected to prevail, despite the opposition of several ministers, who believe free needles might encourage drug abuse.

Mr Fowler believes free needles would discourage addicts from re-using infected ones - a prime factor in the spread of Aids.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Fowler said latest estimates suggested there would be 3,000 new cases of Aids in 1988.

He promised government help for telephone lines for bodies like the Terence Higgins Trust, which provide counselling on Aids. This is because of the steep increase in calls following the Government's publicity campaign.

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Attempt to limit trial waiting times

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to bring in statutory limits next spring on the time defendants can be held in custody before trial.

They will mean that defendants will be released on bail when prosecutors fail to bring their cases to trial within a specified number of days, although they will still face proceedings.

The time limits, which are aimed at cutting the long waiting times for defendants, will initially apply to three police force areas - Avon and Somerset, the West Midlands and Kent. They will be extended to the rest of the country in 1988.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, told MPs yesterday that the time limits were intended to "introduce a discipline into

the system and curb the worst delays."

The Government estimates that 10 to 15 per cent of cases will fail to meet the time limits.

Courts will have power to grant the prosecution an extension of time if satisfied there is good reason.

Unlike in Scotland, which already has statutory time limits, cases will not be struck off the lists.

The new limits will be 56 days from first appearance before magistrates to summary trial, or 70 days to committal. In the Crown Court the limit will be 112 days from committal to taking of plea.

After a present waiting time for the crown court average 18 weeks in London and nine weeks elsewhere.

Falklands vote carried

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Britain suffered a crushing diplomatic defeat yesterday over its Falklands policy as the United Nations General Assembly voted 116 to four, with 34 abstentions, to support Argentina's demand that negotiations over sovereignty be a key element in any Anglo-Argentine reconciliation.

The defeat was further compounded as an intensive British lobbying effort to prevent further European failed to bear fruit as the Netherlands

and are unwilling to sell animals for slaughter.

This part of western Sudan has additional problems caused by the civil war in Chad, with 126,000 Chadian refugees living in overcrowded reception centres.

The guerrilla war still causes widespread malnutrition in southern areas where farmers have been displaced or where normal communications are cut. But the arrival of the dry season has given government forces an advantage over the Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels and surface communication has been re-established with many areas which were cut off when the rains hampered road transport and provided the rebels with ambush cover.

Britain is back in the black

By David Smith

Britain's balance of payments edged into surplus last month thanks to an increase in the estimated overseas earnings of the City and other service industries.

But the underlying trade position was weak. Last month's trade deficit of £835 million was just better than the September deficit of £885 million. In the past three months, the value of exports has been flat, while imports have risen by 8 per cent.

Last month, imports climbed above £7 billion and exports were £6.2 billion. Government officials said there were indications that export growth was increasing and that growth in imports was slowing down.

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Comment, page 23

CID chief talks to Brady

By Ian Smith
Northern Correspondent

Ian Brady, the Moors murderer, spent two hours closeted yesterday in a hospital ward with the senior detective leading a new search for graves on desolate Saddleworth Moor in Greater Manchester.

The expected confrontation took place in Newman Ward of Park Lane special hospital on Merseyside, shortly after Det Chief Supt Topping, joint head of Greater Manchester CID, arrived for a meeting with hospital officials and Brady's solicitor to arrange a visit with the convicted murderer.

After less than an hour's discussion he was ushered into the room where Brady was waiting and for the next two hours the two sat huddled in conversation, watched by Brady's solicitor Mr Benedict Birnberg.

As he left Det Chief Supt Topping refused to disclose what new information had been supplied and would not speculate on the likelihood of his seeing Brady again.

Special arrangements for the visit were made in the hope that Brady would break his 22-year silence and disclose what other bodies he buried on the moorland and where they might be unearthed.

According to Mr Birnberg, who arrived at the hospital with letters exchanged between Brady and Hindley during their first six years in detention, his client was determined he would not be used as a scapegoat by his former accomplice.

After the meeting, Mr Birnberg said that he did not expect Brady to visit the moor within the foreseeable future.

Sangster appoints Hills

Barry Hills will today succeed Michael Dickinson as trainer at Robert Sangster's racing establishment at Manton in Wiltshire. The deal was sealed at a restaurant in London's West End yesterday.

Hills, a lifelong friend of Sangster, will also continue to run his South Bank stable in Lambourn for the next year.

The trainer, 50 in April, has gained classic victories with Enstone Spark (1,000 Guineas) and Tap On Wood (2,000 Guineas) and won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 1973 with Rheingold.

Charles Benson, page 42

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NEWS SUMMARY

Bill aims to curb pro-gay councils

A Bill to stop left-wing councils actively promoting homosexuality in schools was unexpectedly introduced in the House of Lords last night.

Lord Hailsham, president of the National Council for Christian Standards in Society, brought in the short Bill with the support of many other peers, who have been horrified at the anti-heterosexual policies of councils such as Brent and Haringey.

Ministers and many MPs will sympathize with the aims, but without full government backing it stands little chance of reaching the statute book.

Shipyard cuts jobs

Harland & Wolff, the state-owned Belfast shipbuilders, will start paying off 800 workers in February - 600 permanent employees and 200 short-term contract workers - because of the shortage of merchant ship orders.

Even with the cut-back to about 4,200 employees the company will have the largest single shipyard workforce in western Europe, Mr John Parker, chairman and chief executive, said yesterday.

During the past four years the yard has switched from total dependence on the depressed merchant ship market. Its order book comprises 57 per cent naval work and 32 per cent oil-related work. It is about to deliver its last merchant vessel.

High-rise flats call Australia year

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, has been asked to reopen the Roman Point inquiry, held into the partial collapse of the 22-storey tower block, in Newham, east London, in 1968.

Mr Nigel Searling, MP for Newham South, has written to Mr Ridley after Mr George Iley, director of engineering and surveying for the borough, prepared a detailed list of new faults discovered during demolition.

Language lesson

Kelly Greene, aged 11, has been asked to leave a school at Leytonstone, in east London, because she refused to do an Urdu language "baster" course. Her mother, Mrs Pat Greene, of Leytonstone, said her daughter's refusal to learn the language came after she had been assured, at a parent-teacher's meeting, that the course was not compulsory. She was asked to transfer Kelly last Thursday; the course finishes today.

Convoy ambushed

More than 150 anti-nuclear protesters ambushed a Cruise missile convoy three times before dawn yesterday as it returned from a Salisbury Plain exercise to the United States Air Force base at Greenham Common, Berkshire.

Protesters formed three human blockades at Amesbury and Beacons Hill, Wiltshire, and at the Parkhouse A303 roundabout in Hampshire.

A man was arrested after climbing on to a missile launcher at Amesbury and two others were arrested for obstruction and breach of the peace. The three men appeared before Salisbury magistrates and were released on unconditional bail. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said an airbrake hose was cut at Amesbury.

Print discipline demand renewed

By Tim Jones

Print union leaders will today renew their demands for the electricians' union to be disciplined for allowing its members to work at the News International plant at Wapping when they meet the general council of the Trades Union Congress in London.

On Monday, when the TUC's "inner cabinet" - the finance and general purposes committee - voted by two to one against re-opening disciplinary proceedings against the electricians, it was accused by Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the National Graphical Association of "mounting the biggest cover-up since Watergate".

But if past precedent is a guide, Mr Dubbins and his colleagues, Miss Brenda Dean of Sogat '82, will fare no better at today's meeting as the general council usually endorses decisions taken by the committee.

At Monday's meeting, Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, told the print union

leaders that as the electricians' union had already been disciplined this year it could not again be tried for the same offence.

Miss Dean, who accused the committee of failing to stand by union principles, said it had totally ignored the decision taken in September by delegates to the TUC Congress who voted in favour of action against the electricians' union.

Miss Dean has also been disappointed by thousands of her own members who help to distribute the company's national newspapers.

In a separate development yesterday in Mid Glamorgan, the Labour-controlled Cynon Valley district council's libraries committee decided to end its ban on News International newspapers being displayed in its public libraries.

The decision follows a High Court judgment which ruled that some London boroughs should also drop their refusal to allow the newspapers available to the public.

Cautions rise for drunkenness offences

A revolution in the treatment by police of drunkenness is disclosed by official figures yesterday (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

Cautioning, instead of prosecutions, increased to 26,000 in 1985 from 21,000 in 1984 and only 2,000 in 1983. In each year between 1975 and 1982, there were fewer than 1,000 cautions.

The change follows a lead from the Home Office which in June 1984 circulated a consultative document on cautioning by police. A circular was issued in February

1985 giving guidelines on cautioning offenders.

The Home Office Statistical Bulletin on offences of drunkenness in 1985 said yesterday that about one-third of the increase in cautioning in 1985 was accounted for by the Metropolitan Police District compared with 90 per cent of the rise in 1984.

Other large increases occurred in Northumbria, Thames Valley and South Wales.

The number of findings of guilt fell to 56,000 in 1985 from 69,000 in 1984. Between 1984 and 1985, the

number of findings of guilt and cautions fell in all age groups except for persons aged 18 and under 21.

Cautions are given by police, at home if people are infirm, elderly or suffering stress.

Most offenders would be cautioned formally at a police station by a uniformed officer of a rank not normally below Inspector.

The offender is asked to sign a form confirming his consent to the caution and it is countersigned by a police officer.

Publicans have joined

forces with Sussex police in their campaign against drink-driving over the Christmas period. Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex, has asked landlords to help by displaying posters on the dangers of drinking and driving; encourage the use of "drive you home" schemes; and to persuade any one driver in a group to stay sober.

Magistrates are strongly opposing proposals from government officials to appoint more stipendiary magistrates.

They say that the move would lead to the "demise of

the lay magistracy and the jury".

The Magistrates' Association says in its response to a government consultation paper that the proposals would "take the lay element away from much criminal jurisdiction and could lead to the eventual demise of the jury".

The response, agreed at a recent council meeting of the association, makes clear that it would "resist the appointment of stipendiary magistrates" to help relieve the workload of courts unless a bench specifically requests it.

Rothschild accused of corrupting MI5 author

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Allegations that Lord Rothschild and the author, Mr Chapman Pincher, colluded to persuade the former MI5 officer, Mr Peter Wright, to help, with the book on the security service, *Theirs Trade is Treachery*, were strongly denied yesterday.

Mr Wright claimed in Sydney yesterday that he had been drawn into an authorized but deniable operation "to bring the Sir Roger Hollis affair and other MI5 scandals" into the open.

It was also disclosed yesterday that Mr Malcolm Turnbull, Mr Wright's solicitor, in an extraordinary telephone call from Australia, accused Mr Pincher and Lord Rothschild of corrupting the former MI5 officer by offering him money to help with the book.

Mr Pincher said yesterday that he received a call from Mr Turnbull on Saturday at his home in Berkshire.

Mr Pincher said: "He told me that the British Government was playing a dirty game and he intended to play it dirty too. He said it was his opinion that I and Lord Rothschild had corrupted Wright. That's complete rubbish."

"I never knew of the existence of Wright until I met him in August 1980 at a private house. When we talked about the possibility of a book, he said he wanted me to sign a contract there and then to ensure that he was paid 50 per cent of the royalties. He said if I didn't agree to pay 50 per cent, he would go to someone else."

Mr Pincher said that during the conversation with Mr Turnbull, the Australian lawyer admitted that he was feeding private letters that he had written to Mr Wright to a British journalist so that information would get back to the Labour Party in Britain.

Mr Pincher said: "He told me he expected the Labour

Party to demand that both Lord Rothschild and I should be prosecuted for corrupting Wright. Yet it was Wright who had demanded to be paid royalties."

Mr Wright described the royalties as "a helpful incidental benefit" in a statement in Sydney.

Yesterday Mr Pincher, who spoke to *The Times* about the 50 per cent royalties agreement on Sunday, rejected Mr Wright's claim that it was the Government which leaked details of the financial deal to *The Times*.

Lord Rothschild was unavailable to comment.

The Times understands, however, that the meeting between Mr Wright and Mr Pincher in 1980 took place in Lord Rothschild's home.

Mr Wright has said that Lord Rothschild had paid for a first class air fare to bring him to Britain.

After the agreement was reached about the 50 per cent royalties, it is understood that Lord Rothschild made the necessary arrangements for the money to be sent to him, via the publishers, Sidgwick & Jackson.

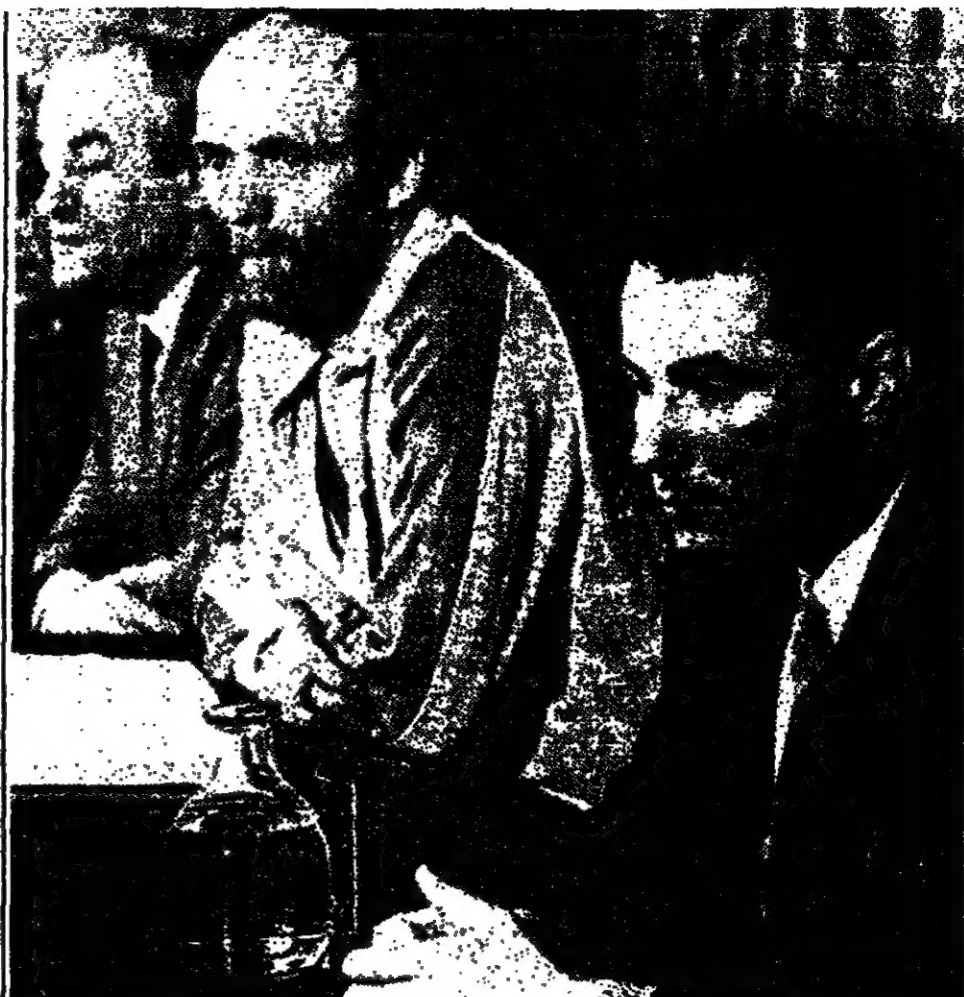
Man in the news knew Wright well

Lord Rothschild, whose role in the Wright affair is now the focus of attention in the New South Wales supreme court was once, quite incorrectly, rumoured to be the "fifth man" in the famous Cambridge spy ring.

As a former distinguished member of MI5 himself, Lord Rothschild knew Peter Wright well when Wright was serving in the MI5 in London.

Nathaniel Mayer Victor, third Baron Rothschild, was a brilliant undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Today he lives in Cambridge and remains, in spite of his dazzling, varied careers, a very private man.



Mr Tony Mulhearn (left) with Mr Tony Byrne and Mr Derek Hatton, who resigned as deputy leader of Liverpool council's Labour group, yesterday.

Hatton warning to Kinnoch

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

Derek Hatton, the Labour Militant, was yesterday reeling on the canvas under a succession of political body blows, yet still the former amateur boxer refuses to be counted out and retired to obscurity in the city he claims to champion.

Only 24 hours after resigning as deputy leader of Liverpool city council Labour group, the specially-introduced political post which has given him the most powerful voice in local politics for the past four years, Mr Hatton still bobbed and weaved and refused to concede defeat.

His resignation decision, he claimed, was taken to save non-Militant colleagues suffering in a Labour leadership purge, not because his popularity had waned.

Looking subdued, but still talking loudly, Mr Hatton dealt his own counter-blow to the Labour leadership and warned: "We will be around when Neil Kinnoch moves further towards his leaning to

the right than Ramsay MacDonald did in the 1930s".

Leaving centre stage with Hatton are avowed Militant supporter Tony Mulhearn, chairman of the council's campaign committee and Felicity Dowling, deputy chairman of the authority's education committee.

"We felt it would be wrong to sacrifice other members of the group by remaining, but for every one of us that goes at least 10 and sometimes 100 will appear to take our place," Mr Hatton predicted.

The general secretary of the Labour party, Mr Larry Whitty, said Hatton's actions showed he had, at long last, recognised the effect of his expulsion from the party.

Liverpool city council Liberal leader, Sir Trevor Jones, was not as optimistic.

He dismissed the resignation as "meaningless" and a mere front to mask Hatton's continuing orchestration of

city council and constituency affairs.

"I do not think, by any stretch of the imagination, that we have seen the end of Militant."

The only thing we witnessed is Derek Hatton looking after Derek Hatton, who sees one gray train come into the station and leaps off to get onto another."

What the future holds for Mr Hatton is unknown: branded by Labour leaders as a mischievous trouble-maker, dismissed from his job as an £11,500-a-year community liaison officer, with neighbouring Knowsley borough council, and now shunned by moderate colleagues on his own authority.

Many believe his outlook is bleak.

Certainly money will become a problem for the man who was, at one time, claiming over £11,000 a year, in attendance expenses, to fulfil his role as deputy leader.

Don't vote for Labour say private schools

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Independent schools on Merseyside have embarked upon a political campaign to warn parents of the dangers of voting for the Labour Party in the next general election.

In conjunction with a parents' support scheme which has been set up by the Independent Schools Information Service, the region's 38 schools, which cater for an estimated 15,000 pupils, have established three action committees in central Liverpool, Wirral and Sefton whose job will be to organize rallies involving parents and members of the public.

Mr Frank Crowley, chairman of the Sefton area committee, said: "Each school will be calling meetings of its parents to explain the educational policies of the political parties. We are hoping to persuade them not to support candidates whose parties adhere to a policy which will be harmful to the future of the independent sector."

Mr Crowley predicted yesterday that the latest, to be held at St Edward's College in Liverpool later in the day, would attract more than 600 parents and said there were plans to hold a mass rally of some 2,000 parents in the city's Philharmonic Hall early next spring.

The Labour Party conference in September passed a resolution calling for the "planned public ownership of the private school system".

However, it seems unlikely that it will be included in the party's election manifesto because it failed to attract the support of two thirds of the delegates.

Moreover, Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman, has said that talk about public ownership of private schools is "nonsense". Nevertheless, he has emphasized that Labour's strategy is to phase out fee-paying through the ending of charitable status.

Flexibility hope from new exam

The Government yesterday launched a guide on the Advanced Supplementary level which will be sent to schools and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Advanced Supplementary levels are to be taught for the first time from September 1987. The new examination is intended to take only half the study time of A levels.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals together with the Standing Conference on University Entrance have published a leaflet, *AS levels and University Entrance*, in which all appear to accept, in principle, that two AS levels should be equal to a third A level for entrance purposes.

MP defies whip over Coal Bill

A veteran Labour MP defied his party leadership last night and voted in favour of government moves to recognize the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers (Our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr Don Concannon, MP for Mansfield, told the Commons that clauses in the Government's Coal Bill, which give the UDM equal rights to the NUM on charitable and similar bodies, were necessary to bring "some kind of sense and harmony to my area as well as a sense of fairness".

● The Union of Democratic Miners has rejected as "derisory" a £6.25 a week two-year pay offer made by British Coal (Tim Jones writes).

● British Coal announced yesterday record output levels in the North Yorkshire colliery.

Tory dissent Left seeks backbench coup

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Conservative left-wing MPs are to attempt tonight to unseat the right-wing chairman of the party's key backbench committee on education.

In a move which springs from growing unease on the Conservative liberal wing about the attempts by the right to influence the contents of the general election manifesto, the left will be trying to replace Mr James Pawsy, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, with Mr Malcolm Thornton, MP for Crosby.

Mr Pawsy took the post last year from Mr David Maud in a right-wing coup, and the left are anxious to get it back.

Mr Pawsy, a close political associate of Mr Rhodes Boyson, the former education minister who continues to have considerable influence on the party's thinking on education, is held to be too right-wing.

Mr Thornton, who is considered to be of the centre, is being backed by the left because of his experience in education, including a spell as a member of the Burnham negotiating committee.



Rivals, Mr Malcolm Thornton (left) and Mr James Pawsy



vative Centre Forward, the left-wing group run by Mr Francis Pym, is to invite Mr Baker and other Cabinet ministers heading the manifesto groups to a series of meetings starting next week in the hope of ensuring that the left's case does not go unheard in the manifesto process.

The backbench elections have developed into an annual trial of strength between the right-wing 92 Group run by Mr George Gardiner, MP for Reigate, and the left-wing Lollards organized by Mr Fred Silvester, MP for Manchester Withington.

There will be no contest this year for the chairmanship of the key finance committee.

Thatcher's sports defence

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

The Government's record on sports funding was described as outstanding yesterday by the Prime Minister, in spite of disagreement about her use of statistics.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was responding to a question about the grant to the Sports Council, the first time its grant had been raised in Parliament.

Mr Terence Lewis, Labour MP for Worsley, wanted to know whether she would reconsider the decision to freeze the grant for 1987-88 at £36.984 million.

Mrs Thatcher said that between 1979 and 1986 its grant has gone up by 67 per cent in real terms. "It received an increase of £6,320,000 in 1986-87, an increase of 16 per cent in real terms over the previous year."

The Prime Minister's figures mystified the Sports Council, which insisted that in real terms the grant from 1979-80 to 1987-88 has only gone up from £26.796 million to £35.874 million; £5 million of this was transferred from other government accounts

with the abolition of the metropolitan counties and £700,000 from the Association of Children's Play and Recreation.

Mr John Smith, chairman of the Sports Council, has described the Government's grant as "very disappointing". "This is a real cut in our grant aid of 3.5 per cent."

Mr Denis Howell, a former Labour minister for sport, failed to secure an emergency debate on the freezing of the grant.

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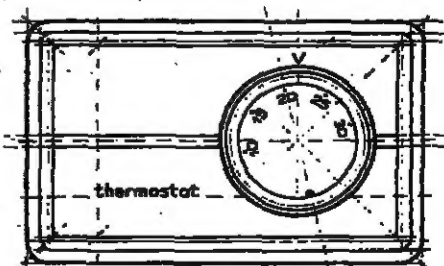
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Owen calls for less TV violence in attempt to reduce horrific crimes

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Violence on television should be reduced as part of a new crusade to reduce horrific crimes, Dr David Owen said yesterday.

The SDP leader coupled his plea to the BBC and IBA with a demand for Parliament to legislate against the sale and advertising of a wide range of weapons including battle knives, knuckle dusters, and crossbows — many of which are bought by teenagers after seeing them used on television.

He predicted the two-pronged move would help promote an anti-violent society. "We might not see any benefits for 15 years in the crime statistics, but surely the time has come when it is worth a try."

Dr Owen, who was speaking to the British Society of Magazine Editors in London, said violence against people had increased by 7 per cent to 122,000 cases last year, while recorded offences of rape rose dramatically by 29 per cent in 1985.

"We cannot go on like this. We risk conditioning ourselves to accept violence as part of our day-to-day lives. Violence is a pollution. It is time we acted across a wide range of activity."

Dr Owen's plea came a week after he attended a community meeting near his home in east London, when a family launched a campaign to prevent young people from carrying offensive weapons.

It came after the death of Mr John Dennison, aged 17, who was stabbed to death while on the way home with friends.

Dr Owen highlighted the Christmas issue of *Guns*, advertising various weapons such as close-quarter battle

knives, and said: "Why should we go on accepting these sort of advertisements?"

"Parliament banned the flick knife, but has not yet legislated to stop the sale and advertising of a whole range of weaponry that cannot be justified in any civilized society."

Turning to violence on television screens, he said the experts had concentrated too much on whether there was a causal link between particular incidents of violence and watching television.

Although the BBC was at last going to talk to the IBA about programme scheduling, it was still possible, by switching channels, to increase substantially the content of violence in any one day's viewing — and the problem was made worse by video nasties.

"Surely the time has been reached when our society should say that though there may not be proof in sociological terms and there may not be an absolute causal link, common sense tells us that to allow this pollution to go on is to take too great a risk," he said.

"Surely when the crime statistics, and any normal observation of human behaviour, points to an ever increasing level of violence, it is time to act."

Just because violent programmes were put on after the "watershed" time of 9pm, it did not mean children would not be exposed. Many of the most vulnerable children were likely to watch television late at night.

Prices of shares by radio

The Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday named two companies to operate Radio Teletext in London, a communications service that will allow executives to monitor the stock market on portable data displays.

The companies are Teletext Case and Independent Radio Features, owned by BBC and a joint venture of Associated Press, Dow Jones and Teletext. Both plan broadly similar services, concentrating on share and commodity prices.

Pirate radio ship set to go back on air

Radio Laser, the pirate ship which last year claimed to be Britain's most popular radio station, with an audience of between 10 and 15 million, is back at sea and will reportedly resume broadcasting on Friday.

The station, on a Panamanian-registered ship, had limped into port in November last year with mechanical difficulties and was seized by the authorities.



Dame Margot Fonteyn de Arias signed autographs for admirers yesterday after the thanksgiving service for Sir Robert Helpmann at St Paul's in Covent Garden, London (Photograph: James Gray).

Boy weeps in sniffing case

A boy of 13 cried in court yesterday as he recalled the moment his best friend collapsed and died after sniffing typewriter correction fluid.

Crispin Sandford broke down while giving evidence at Tower Bridge Magistrates' Court in London in a case against two shopkeepers accused of selling typewriter correcting fluid to Lee Kendall, aged 14, who died in a park in Bermondsey, south-east London.

Chandrakant Patel, aged 35, and his cousin, Sureshbhai Patel, aged 23, deny supplying Lee Kendall with the fluid, knowing he was under 18 and having reasonable cause to believe he was likely to inhale it.

Mr Lindsay Burn, for the prosecution, asked Crispin what had happened to his friend after their sniffing session.

Crispin said: "Lee had a heart attack. He fell to the ground." He then began sobbing and was led from the court which was adjourned for five minutes.

Earlier, he said he and Lee began sniffing the fluid during the summer holidays.

Crispin, now living at Bullock Rectory, Bullock, near Corby, Northamptonshire, said he had known Lee for nearly four years and had been at the same school. In August, when Lee died, the two had lived in the same street.

He said they had discovered they could buy the fluid cheaply at the Patels' shop in Dutton Road, Southwark, south London.

In the week leading up to Lee's death they had been into the shop to buy the fluid four or five times — and on one occasion Lee had traded a personal cassette player for three bottles of the fluid.

Mr Chandrakant Patel pleads not guilty to two charges of supplying Lee with the fluid, and Mr Sureshbhai Patel denies one charge.

Mr Sureshbhai Patel also denies a charge of breaking the terms of his permit to stay in Britain by taking employment.

The hearing continues today.

Criticism on Aids campaign

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The World Health Organization has been strongly criticized by Aids experts for its slow response to the global epidemic.

The organization has failed to provide an accurate picture of the international spread of the disease, according to a report published yesterday.

Its figures are "extremely flawed", partly because many countries do not report their growing numbers of cases, and it has no organized information on a range of prevention and control measures, the report said.

Three years after the organization's first meeting on Aids, its co-ordinating office consists of one doctor and a secretary, the report by the Franco Institute, an international information and policy studies group, said.

It added: "A strong feeling undoubtedly exists among Aids experts that the WHO should now be playing a far more effective role."

The organization has called for an Aids budget of \$200 million next year, rising to \$2 billion by 1991, but depends on voluntary contributions from individual countries.

"The criticisms of the organization were raised at a seminar in London yesterday to discuss the report, *Aids in the Third World*, published by the institute."

The WHO Aids programme has been set up in Geneva by Dr Jonathan Mann, an American expert on the disease. The report said that he had made "considerable progress" and that the WHO global strategy on Aids is "good".

Aids in the Third World (Panos Institute, 8 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7EB; £5.50).

Parliament, page 4

Dr Jaffe man 'did not need treatment'

By Mike Horsnell

A Harley Street psychiatrist said yesterday that a patient of Dr Joseph Jaffe was given a five-year course of hypnotherapy and drugs costing up to £50,000, although he did not need any treatment.

Dr David Thompson told a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing, where Dr Jaffe is accused of serious professional misconduct, that all the patient needed when he saw him in hospital last year was a little support for tension.

The committee has been told that Dr Jaffe, a Manchester hypnotherapist, fed a drug concoction called "Jaffe Juice" to Mr George Waterson, aged 49, a wealthy businessman, for extortionate fees and wrecked his bicycle business in the process.

Dr Jaffe, aged 60, a former mayor of Salford, denies five charges of serious professional misconduct relating to his treatment of the patient between 1978 and 1983.

Dr Thompson cared for Mr Waterson, a married man with four children from Altrincham, Cheshire, for three weeks in a London hospital in 1985.

He told the hearing that he was concerned about the injections of the barbiturate methohexitome which Dr Jaffe had given Mr Waterson, and which the patient knew as "Jaffe Juice", together with injections of Valium.

And he added that he could not accept a report by Dr Jaffe about the patient's alleged "over emotional symptoms".

Dr Thompson said: "I don't think he had overtly hysterical features and I could find no evidence of a personality defect. He required no medication and was psychiatrically normal, but in need of support."

Dr Thompson said that the late Sir Desmond Ford, former president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, agreed that the patient needed no treatment.

Asked by Mr Anthony Arledge, QC, counsel for Dr Jaffe, if it were possible for a doctor to have brainwashed a man so that he was effectively his puppet, Dr Thompson said that a patient regularly given addictive injections would be "enormously influenced" by the doctor.

The case continues.

Portfolio Gold—Woman to invest part of her win

A woman is the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Jessie Smith from Wimborne, Dorset, has played the Portfolio Gold game since it started in *The Times*.

"I am obviously delighted," she said.

When asked how she intended spending the prize money, Mrs Smith said: "I'll invest some and spend some".

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackbury, BB1 6AJ.

Two in court after PC's death fall

Two men appeared in court yesterday charged with stealing from a home in the block of flats in Stoke where PC John Taylor, aged 26, fell 50ft to his death on Sunday.

Delroy Gooden, aged 26, of Brookfield Road, Hockley, and Junior Carnegie, aged 25, of Oval Road, Erdington, both Birmingham, appeared at Fenton Magistrates' Court, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and were remanded in custody for seven days.

A third man, Terence Butcher, who is also accused of stealing, did not appear. He is in North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary with serious injuries after falling from the flats with PC Taylor.

Free advice to elderly on keeping warm

Help the Aged intensified its campaign yesterday to help the elderly keep warm during the winter months by issuing a free advice leaflet.

The leaflet, *Keep Warm This Winter*, gives details of how to save heat and advice on large heating bills.

The charity also launched a Freephone Heating Hotline, an information service on heating.

Revolution in car servicing

By David Sapsted

The motorist's long-cherished but oft-frustrated dream of low-cost, fixed-price car servicing may soon be realized.

National Tyre Service and Automotive Products have launched a joint venture to establish more than 200 centres in Britain offering single-cost servicing for most family cars.

The move, against competition from other groups including Kwik-Fit and Halfords, is likely to mean the biggest shake-up the garage industry has known.

A 6,000-mile service for cars up to 2,000cc will cost £31.50, inclusive of labour parts and VAT, and a full 12,000-mile service £12 more. Cars in that category include the Austin Maestro, the Vauxhall Cavalier, the Ford Sierra and some BMW models.

The chain, operating under the name of National Auto, will set up its first five centres early next year in Newcastle upon Tyne, Southport, Bradford, Rochford and Ashton-under-Lyne. Other centres will be established in the South and Midlands between now and the early 1990s.

Competition for the car servicing market has increased greatly in recent weeks.

The Kwik-Fit group is planning a network of 750 centres offering everything from standard exhaust and tyre services, to clutch and gearbox replacement.

Halfords wants to establish at least 100 parts, accessories and servicing outlets, and B&Q hypermarkets, as well as Licas, are planning similar ventures.

Killing blamed on terrorist backlash

A man who wanted to end the Marxist regime in the Seychelles was murdered in the "evil backlash of terrorist activity", a coroner said yesterday.

Det Insp Christopher Burns told an inquest at Hovey, north London, that the murder of Mr Gerald Hoarau, aged 35, was the work of a professional assassin.

He believed the man who shot down Mr Hoarau outside his home in Greencourt Avenue, Edgware, north London, on November 29 last year was now out of the country.

Mr Hoarau was leader of the Seychelles National Movement, which wanted to overthrow the Marxist-led regime of President Albert Rene.

Mr Burns said the Scotland Yard anti-terrorist branch had not been aware of any threats against Mr Hoarau's life.

Mr Willy Laporte, who was living at Greencourt Avenue at the time, said in evidence that he heard a sound like a machine-gun.

"It was a crack and I was scared. I didn't move," he said.

Later a neighbour told him that Mr Hoarau was lying outside on the pavement.

"He had received a letter telling him the president was out to kill him. He said it was nothing and didn't take it seriously," Mr Laporte said.

Professor David Bowen, a pathologist, said that death was from gunshot wounds which included three bullet wounds to the chest.

Dr David Paul, the coroner, recorded a verdict of unlawful killing. He said: "This was the evil backlash of terrorist activity which involved people living in this country but was not the concern of citizens of this country."

After the hearing Mr Owen Hoarau, aged 43, of Farm View, Castor, Peterborough, said in the event of a coup in the Seychelles his brother would have been president, with an "ultimate plan" to restore democracy.

The movement is now being led by a distant cousin, Mr Gabriel Hoarau, who lives in Belgium.

Rotherham joins the resorts

Rotherham and Islington seem unlikely to figure high on the list of potential holiday destinations when Britain begins to plan for the lazy days of summer in the hazy days after Christmas (Harvey Elliott writes).

But with tourism now big business, and therefore a potential source of income, neither Islington nor Rotherham can afford to be left out.

So when the World Travel Market was opened at Olympia by the Duchess of Gloucester yesterday both these unlikely holiday spots

had stands alongside more traditional names such as the Bahamas, the Seychelles, Mallorca and France.

Islington even took a whole page advertisement in the official brochure describing itself as the "home of EastEnders".

No one was trying harder than the Falkland Islands. "We are really excited," Mr Steve Green said. "I can well see us getting as many as 50 to 100 people going to Fort Stanley this year."

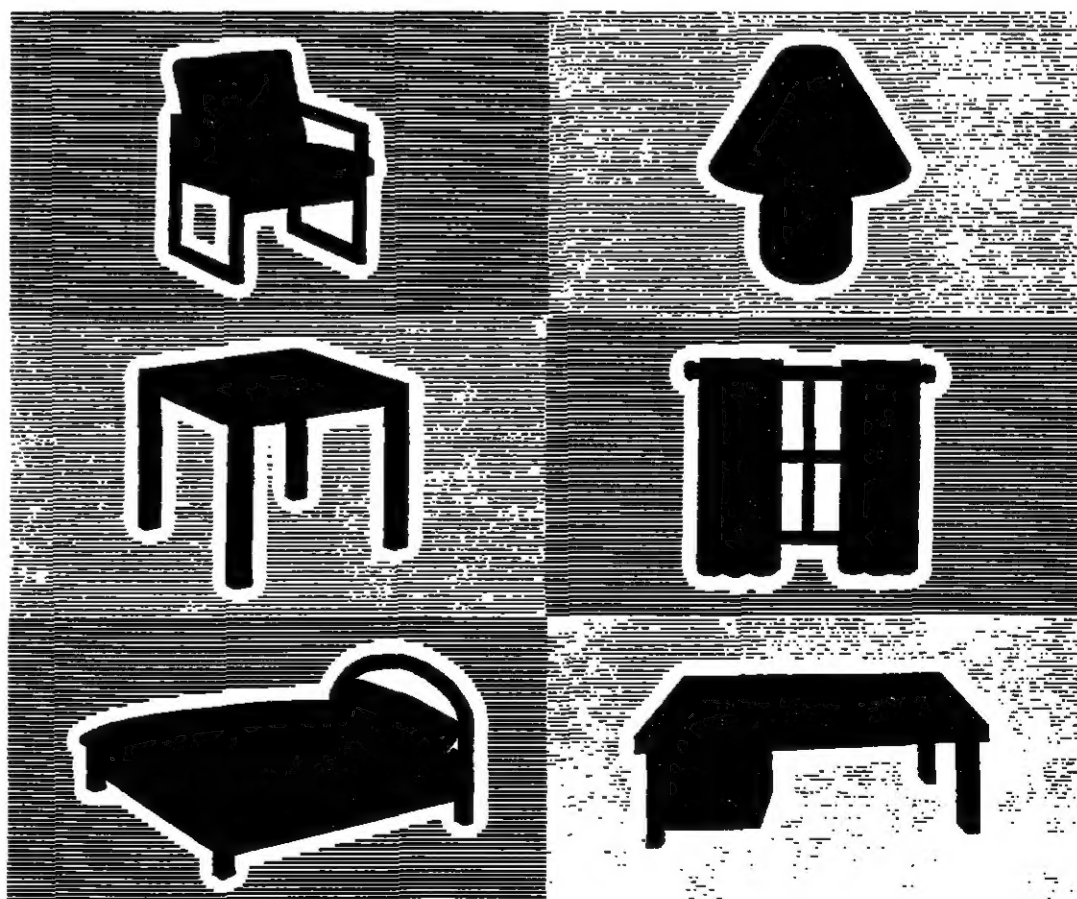
They will, of course, have to travel by RAF TriStar jet from

Brize Norton with a brief stop over in Ascension Island. The World Travel Market has grown greatly since it first opened in 1980. Then there were just 350 exhibitors, 7,753 trade visitors and 4,610 members of the public who are admitted on the last day.

This year there are 2,250 exhibitors.

Bingo has finally taken off. Passengers on Slade Leisure Group holidays will be able to play bingo while flying to Malaga, Tenerife, Alicante, Faro and Palma over the Christmas holidays.

Furnishing materials of style and substance



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For soft furnishings, EniChem fibres provide vivid colour and patterning possibilities. And in household goods such as telephones, television and radio, EniChem engineering polymers provide the raw material for aesthetic design and high quality gloss and colour finish.

EniChem

November 25 1986

PARLIAMENT

M15 secrecy must be upheld, says Thatcher

The Government was concerned with upholding the principle of confidentiality and the obligations of staff without which there could be no effective security services, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when questioned in the Commons about the M15 court hearing in Sydney.

She added, in a phrase that she was to use several times during the question time: "I believe that these principles have been upheld by successive prime ministers and home secretaries of both parties".

Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C), who began the exchanges, said that many people viewed with distaste the picture of someone who had taken a vote of secrecy now agreeing, in return it seemed for a large sum of money, to break that vow.

Mrs Thatcher: I can say nothing about the conduct of this case. I can only say that Mr Wright, like all present and former members of the security services, owes a long duty of confidentiality to the Crown. The unauthorized publication of this manuscript would violate this obligation.

He served in the security services from 1955 to 1976 and his service therefore relates to a period before this Government's term of office.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party: How does she explain the difference between allowing Mr Chapman Flucker to publish his book, based on information supplied by Mr Wright and with half the proceeds going to him, and her attempt now to stop a book on the same subject being published under Mr Wright's own name?

Mrs Thatcher: The principle we are upholding is the obligation of staff to the security services, without which there could be no effective services. I wish to uphold the efficiency and effectiveness of the services.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C): Since she has said that the events being scrutinized by a court in Australia arise in circumstances which took place before she was Prime Minister, would she agree that she has no vested interest, whereas the Leader of the Opposition in his leading role is indulging in low, nasty, dirty party politics (Prolonged Opposition protests)?

Mrs Thatcher: I have made it clear that the Government is concerned with upholding the principle of confidentiality and the obligations of staff without which there can be no effective security services.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said during Prime Minister's question time.

Had she, he asked, missed the point with Mr Reagan during his visit to America and had she asked for an explanation or apology for that apparent lapse in the special relationship?

Mrs Thatcher: The Prime Minister, said that it was government policy not to give ransom of any kind for hostages.

The American President had made clear his policy in several television appearances.

"I do not answer yet for the United States."

Mr Kinnock: Can she tell us how she can justify the dropping of bombs on a source of terrorism in April and the giving of cut price gifts of arms to a source of terrorism in May?

Mrs Thatcher: I will not answer for the United States of America, nor am I expected to. If he is referring to our policy over Libya, that was fully justified.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich West, Lab) asked if in the light of Mr Reagan's admission that there had been limited arms sales to Iran the Prime Minister stood by her original statement that she believed implicitly in the integrity of the President in this matter.

Mrs Thatcher: It is not for me to answer for the United States policy. President Reagan said in television statement that the US does not give ransom in money or arms for hostages. That is our policy. That is his policy.

NHS is growing, Fowler insists

Last year, National Health Service Hospitals in England treated one million more in-patients than in 1985, and almost 3.5 million more out-patient cases than in 1978, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during Commons question time.

The figures for 1985, he said, were 1.3 million in-patient, 960,000 day and 37.4 million out-patient cases.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C): These figures more than any others show the expansion of the National Health Service since the present Government came to office.

Mr Fowler: They are among the figures that do that. They show the record amount of health care being provided and other figures that establish the same point are in the capital building programme which shows a record number of hospitals being built by this Conservative Government.

Mr William Hamilton (Central, Lab): These figures are a further example of how the Government fiddles figures. Is it not the case that where a patient is prematurely discharged from hospital and subsequently has to go back, it counts as two?

Mr Fowler: These figures are the exact measurement used by Lord Ennals, the former Labour Secretary of State for Social Services. Why should it not be a fiddle when he used them, but a fiddle when we do?

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Saddleworth, C): The winner of discontent added to the waiting lists of hospitals throughout the United Kingdom and was it not the Conservative Government which shortened these waiting lists and is it not a Conservative Government which has a drive on now to shorten the waiting lists more?

Which is the Government with compassion, which is the Government that cares? (Opposition laughter and protests.)

Mr Fowler: I entirely agree with everything he said. In fact, his point that in 1982 the waiting lists went up because of industrial action and that that industrial action was never condemned by the official opposition.

The Government was committed to the development of the health service in the North of England, Mr Anthony Newman, Minister for Health, said during Commons questions in response to charges of neglect from Labour MPs.

The report, *Inequalities in Health in the Northern Region*, was commissioned by the Regional Health Authority which would have no doubt take it into account in its planning, he said.

Mr Jack Dromey (Barnsley, Lab), who had asked what action the Government proposed to take on the report, said that no fewer than two thirds of the 678 local wards in the Northern region had levels of permanent sickness above the average for England and Wales.

Mr Newton said there was considerable academic debate about the linkages between some of the statistics to which Mr Dromey had referred.

Within the total of NHS resources, Northern region resources had risen from less than £3 million in 1978-79 to well over £6 million in 1985-86. Eleven big capital developments had been completed.

Mr Roland Boyes (Houghton and Washington, Lab) said that the report only added to the data showing the relationship between unemployment and health. Only government ministers were ignoring that data.

Why would the Government not bring forward resources instead of leaving it to private capital?

Mr Newton said there was no question of leaving it to private capital to build new hospitals. There were nine schemes under consideration at a cost of £31 million and three more schemes costing £27 million due to start.

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Mr Norman Fowler making the most of his new tune.

More telephone advice for Aids inquirers

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AIDS

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Sunken vessel inquiry to be considered

The Government would consider opening a formal investigation into the loss of the Derbyshire, which sank without trace during a typhoon in 1980 with the loss of 44 lives, if any evidence was found of a link with the break-up of her sister ship the Kowloon Bridge, Mr Michael Spicer, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons statement.

MPs from all sides of the House pressed him to agree to such an inquiry.

He said that he would publish the reports of the two separate investigations involving the Hong Kong-registered vessel, Kowloon Bridge, one of which was expected very soon, and consider what action needed to be taken.

The first was a full investigation into the damage to the vessel, conducted by a Department of Transport inspector, who boarded the vessel on November 20 at some personal risk in Bantry Bay, where she had put in for repairs. Early indications were that the damage was entirely consistent with the severe weather encountered during her voyage across the Atlantic.

The second was an investigation by inspectors from the Department of Transport on behalf of the Hong Kong administration into the vessel breaking free from her anchor, the loss of steering and the subsequent grounding.

His department had been advised of reports of structural damage to the Kowloon Bridge late on November 18. In view of the possible connection with the loss of the Derbyshire, the department agreed with the Hong Kong authorities that the department's inspectors should investigate on their behalf.

Let on November 22 the vessel broke away from her anchor. The master decided to put out to sea. She then suffered a loss of steering and a mayday call was put out. The House would wish to acknowledge the skill and bravery with which the crew was taken off by RAF Sea King helicopters with no loss of life.

The vessel eventually drifted on to rocks near Balmacara after drifting for 24 hours in severe weather conditions. She had since broken her back between number two and number three holds.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C) said that there had been trials in the United States of ATZ which, it was suggested, while not curing Aids, could delay its progress.

The Wellcome Foundation was making great progress in the development work, and despite contrary reports, there were adequate supplies for clinical trials in Britain. Any delay was to ensure that the trials were properly set up.

Mr Fowler agreed that clinical trials were being set up. ATZ was not a cure but it could prolong life and alleviate symptoms.

In earlier exchanges, Mrs Marion Roe (Bromborough, C) asked whether any progress had been made in developing the need for drug addicts which could not be reused.

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under-Secretary of State for Social Services, said that it was a matter of considerable concern that Aids and other diseases could be passed on by reusable needles. It was under consideration elsewhere and an announcement might be made shortly.

TRANSPORT

drifting for 24 hours in severe weather conditions. She had since broken her back between number two and number three holds.

Mr Roger Sims, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the Kowloon Bridge — formerly the English Bridge — was one of six ships built by Swan Hunter in the early 1970s.

One of those, the merchant vessel Derbyshire, sank without trace in the South China Sea in 1980. Another, the Tyne Bridge, suffered severe structural damage in the North Sea in 1982 and her crew had to be taken by helicopter to safety.

An inquiry by Lloyd's Register focused on the ship had not been built according to the designer's plans and all other ships in that class were substantially modified.

Since 1980 the families of those who died on the Derbyshire had been fighting a campaign to persuade the Department of Transport to have a formal inquiry into the tragedy.

Could the minister confirm that when the surveyor examined the Kowloon Bridge in Bantry Bay he instructed the captain that it would be unsafe to proceed? Would the report of the investigation into her structural damage be compared with the structural failure in the Tyne Bridge? Would the remaining ships in the class be inspected?

In view of the concern felt by MPs on all sides of the House and by relatives of those who died on the Derbyshire, was it not now time to lay the matter to rest?

Mr Spicer said that in the case of the Derbyshire there was simply no evidence to go on because she had sunk without trace. But there had been a detailed investigation into the sinking of the Derbyshire. There had been no whitewash.

The issue now was whether there was anything more to find out. Formal investigations were elaborate and expensive procedures and there had to be good reason to have them.

Worries in Nato over ships loss

Concern about the defence implications of the sharp drop in merchant tonnage among members of Nato has led to a decision to devote part of an early meeting of Nato ministers to discussing the matter.

The North Atlantic Council, the Nato ministerial body, meets on December 12, but the agenda was said by a Nato spokesman yesterday to be confidential.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in a written Commons reply that she expected an early discussion of the matter in the North Atlantic Council.

Sir Edward de Cams (Tamworth, C) had asked the Prime Minister four questions reflecting concern about the defence implications of the reduction in the British and Nato merchant tonnage.

Mrs Thatcher told him that last year the total tonnage of the Nato merchant fleets fell by 30.7 million deadweight tonnes.

"The Nato Planning Board for Ocean Shipping has drawn the attention of the North Atlantic Council to the losses for the Alliance of this trend, and indicated possible remedial measures."

"There are sufficient vessels to meet Ministry of Defence requirements. The ability of the fleet to meet those requirements is monitored closely by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Transport."

As the Alliance had a long-standing agreement to pool merchant tonnage in time of war, the availability of merchant shipping to meet civil supply needs had to be assessed in terms of the capability of Nato.

Transport policies defended

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, defended his policies yesterday against complaints that lack of government strategy led to orders for British transport systems going abroad.

He conceded that Britain may be "a little slower" in getting new projects under way, but that was because of the democratic processes of inquiries which were sometimes frustrating.

This different attitude — and public opposition to major infrastructure projects — had been brought home to him when sitting across to the table from his European counterparts and discussing such issues as the Channel tunnel, he said.

Giving evidence to a House of Lords sub-committee investigating innovation in surface transport, Mr Moore assured peers that his department took a long-term view and was not confined by the three-year public spending cycle.

Companies have complained to the sub-committee about the department's lack of strategy over the sort of research and development they should be carrying out.

Mr Moore accepted that there had been allegations about poor communications between the department, local government and industry, but consultations were going on.

In written evidence to the peers, the department set out the advances which will dictate the future of transport in Britain, mainly through the use of information technology. Alternatives to steel, for example, will mean lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

It added that the recent collapse of oil prices has meant it is unlikely that any alternative to the internal combustion engine will be found before the end of the century.

Defence 'will be the main issue'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Labour Party is fully prepared to let defence become the central issue of the next election, as Mrs Margaret Thatcher intends, despite the party's drubbing on the issue at the 1983 election.

Labour's Director of Communications, Mr Peter Mandelson, said at the launch yesterday of a book on the 1983 election that the issue would not be fought in the same way next time and set out Labour's strategy for countering the Tory onslaught, a strategy that will be given a dummy run on the visit to the United States this coming weekend by the party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock.

In 1983, Mr Mandelson said, the electorate were in a war-happy mood after the Falklands and were receptive to the Government's setting the agenda on defence.

The Labour Party were disoriented on the issue and its opponents were able to give the impression that the choice was between one party offering to defend Britain, and another offering no defence.

Next time it would be different. It would be a choice between two versions of patriotism, with the Conservative Government willing to spend money on the Trident missile system while forcing to cut back on conventional arms spending and Labour dismissing the nuclear deterrent as obsolete and preferring to spend the money on frigates, fighter planes and new weaponry for the Army.

In a candid appraisal of Labour's disaster in 1983, Mr Mandelson agreed with the opinion of the former Conservative Party chairman, Mr Cecil Parkinson, that the most remarkable feature of the campaign was the "inexplicable and fundamental muddle" of the Labour campaign effort.

Labour was already further advanced with its election campaign this time around

than it had been when the last election started.

It had professional advisers to match the Conservatives' Saatchi and Saatchi, it was already filming its party political broadcasts for the campaign and the party leader's movements had already been plotted.

● In the new book, Mr Parkinson claims that stories of a £20million Conservative war chest at the last election were a myth. "In fact we started the campaign with £200,000 in one account and an overdraft in the other."

He says that the party spent very little more than the Labour Party and at yesterday's press conference Mr Ivor Crewe, Professor of Government at Essex University, said that the Conservative advantage in money terms was really "quite slight".

In the book, Mr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, senior lecturer in government at Brunel University, puts the central election spending totals at £3.8 million for the Conservatives, £2.3 million for Labour and £1.95 million for the Alliance parties.

Political Communications: The General Election Campaign of 1983, edited by Ivor Crewe and Martin Harrop (Cambridge University Press, £25).



Mr Mandelson: A different strategy this time.

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He says

Student grants so poor that youngsters opt for training, MPs are told

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Student grants are so inadequate that 16-year-olds are opting for the ready cash of the Youth Training Scheme rather than higher education, MPs were told yesterday.

The present grants system was so inadequate, uncertain and complex that higher education was becoming the preserve of the middle and upper classes.

Some students on courses were so poor that they were in danger of vitamin deficiency, while university and polytechnic hardship funds were "close to exhaustion".

In evidence to the education select committee, university and polytechnic teachers and vice-principals continued the theme of criticism of the Government's grants policy that had been begun in previous hearings by the National Union of Students and by the local education authorities.

Almost without exception they have deplored the 20 per cent cut in real terms in student grants since 1979. They have emphasized that that cut has been worsened by increases in costs of books and accommodation well above the inflation rate, by the failure of parents in nearly 50 per cent of cases to pay their parental contributions in part or in full, by effective cuts in the social security benefits and travel grants payable to students, and by the lack of vacation jobs.

Mr Paul Cottrell, assistant general secretary of the

Association of University Teachers, said yesterday that there was now an "unprecedented" level of student hardship. "The situation is quite critical," he said.

A colleague, Dr Bill Stephenson, a member of the AUT executive, cited evidence of 16-year-olds preferring the immediate cash grants available on the YTS rather than the "long slog" of two more years at school followed by the financial hardship of being a student.

In its submission to the committee, the AUT argued that the inadequacies of the grants were "barriers to access, and particularly to those groups which have traditionally not taken up higher education - the working class, women, ethnic minorities, mature students and the disabled".

That was substantiated by Mr Fred Holliday, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, who said that the present complex system was frightening away low-income families. "If we can bring in the same proportion of students from the working classes as the middle classes this country would have a marvelous reservoir of talent," he said.

Mr Holliday, representing the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, spoke of students approaching welfare officers and tutors in increasing numbers with financial problems, of rising levels of stress, and of students

being too poor to eat properly. "Vitamin deficiency in students is not now beyond the bounds of possibility," he said.

"Students have begun to turn to the banks for support. An informal loan system appears to operate already as it is commonplace for students to have overdrafts, often running at an average of £300 to £500. There are cases of overdrafts as high as £2,000 to £3,000 by the completion of the course."

The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics said that polytechnic students were particularly badly affected and that "in some cases hardship funds are close to exhaustion". Polytechnics were legally restrained from subsidizing food and accommodation.

Up to 70 per cent of parents with children at polytechnics were failing to pay their parental contributions, compared with under 50 per cent of university parents, while a "derisory" 11 per cent of polytechnic students were drawn from the lowest social classes.

Dr Raymond Rickett, Director of Middlesex Polytechnic, said that polytechnics were no longer able to attract "a sizeable chunk" of the population from backgrounds where higher education was not traditional and where there was pressure to start earning as early as possible.

The Department of Education is to give evidence to the committee next Tuesday.



Mr Michael Broadbent, head of Christie's wine department, with the 1784 Chateau d'Yquem (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Rarest wine for auction

The world's rarest wine is to be auctioned in London next week and is expected to fetch at least £50,000.

The 1784 Chateau d'Yquem was one of three bottles discovered in Paris last year and is the oldest known wine from this famous vineyard in the Sauternes region.

It is also the oldest ever to be offered for sale and bidding is expected to be intense at Christie's on December 4.

The bottle, which bears the initials TH J, was bought by Thomas Jefferson in 1787, when he was US ambassador to Paris. Wines were not labelled and he insisted his initials were cut into the bottles to identify them.

The world record for a bottle of wine was achieved last December, when a Thomas Jefferson engraved 1787 Chateau-Lafite fetched £120,000, but the wine is now useless as the cork slipped into it while on exhibition.

Other lots in the sale of eighteenth and nineteenth century wines include an 1832 Chateau-Lafite, expected to raise £2,000.

Brancusi, Picasso and company made the clear, clean lines of primitive sculpture fashionable. With a 50-year delay the market has enthusiastically endorsed their taste by running an 8in neolithic sculpture from the Greek islands to an unheard of \$1,320,000 (£923,000).

Sotheby's in New York offered the little cross-legged marble goddess for sale on Monday with a pre-sale estimate of \$400,000-\$600,000. The bidding soared beyond their dreams, setting a new auction price record for any art work of antiquity.

The little goddess does not have much in the way of features. Her arms stick out at right angles and her crossed legs are indicated by grooves in the rounded base.

Sotheby's date her to about 5000 - 3500BC and describe her as Cycladic while admitting that she may have come from the Peloponnese. She is thought to depict the Great Mother.

There are said to be only eight or nine images of this size known and Sotheby's

estimate was probably out by a factor of eight or nine.

The statuette came from the collection of James Johnson Sweeney whose superb modern pictures broke records at Sotheby's in New York last week. Two private collectors, one American and one European, fought for possession, steadily capping each other's bids. America won.



The little sculpture that reached a record price

Sale room

Greek goddess's £923,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The winning bid is believed to have come from Mrs Leon Levy, wife of a leading Wall Street financier who has a distinguished collection of antiquities. The under bidder is thought to have been Mr George Ortiz, a wealthy collector in the same field.

The other big price in the sale was the \$451,000 (estimate \$75,000-\$125,000) or £315,000 paid by a European dealer for a two-foot Assyrian gypsum relief fragment depicting a winged guardian divinity with an austere countenance and massive beard. The sale totalled £1,892,711 with 5 per cent unsold.

At Christie's in London yesterday the 'Breadalbane' Amen glass sold for £28,600 (estimate £12,000-£15,000) to a private collector. 'Amen' glasses, engraved with the national anthem are the most famous Jacobite memorials.

This example is thought to have been bought in the early nineteenth century by the Second Marquess of Breadalbane. The morning glass sale made £192,417 with 1 per cent unsold.

Pay rethink at Civil Service

By Tim Jones

High-flying Civil Servants who earn between £14,518 and £62,000 a year are to be given performance related increments to prevent them being tempted to jobs in the private sector.

The change, which will at first affect the 7,617 members of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, is also in line with the Government's philosophy that pay should be related to profit, performance and productivity.

The Government denies that there is anything like a "flood" of high achievers leaving the service but concedes

that some particularly talented people have left for higher salaries elsewhere.

It is understood that the Prime Minister has agreed that the top grade two and three Civil Servants should have their pay linked to performance, after a recommendation last year by the Top Salaries Review Board.

Although the mechanics of the system have yet to be worked out and agreed with the unions, Cabinet and Treasury ministers are considering linking incremental pay rises more to performance, enabling better talents to jump stages in the pay scale.

An indication of government thinking was given recently by Miss Anne Mueller, second permanent secretary to the Management and Personnel Office of the Civil Service.

She said: "Motivation is partly about pay, and the Civil Service has to address that issue. We have begun to relate pay to performance but have still a long way to go in shaping the pay system so as to reward the good performers suitably more than the less adequate."

Miss Mueller added: "This is a major cultural change. It will take time."

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D O N T A I D A I D S

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Bradford FC says it did not receive adequate warning of fire hazards Club's plea for fair sharing of blame

By Ian Smith

Bradford City Football Club yesterday pleaded for an impartial and dispassionate assessment of the blame it must shoulder for the worst disaster in British football history.

Being given its first public opportunity to outline its version of the events at Valley Parade in Bradford on May 11, 1985, was more important to the club than the multi-million pounds pay out in damages it may face, the High Court sitting in Leeds was told.

An impassioned plea that the club whose directors and members still lived receive the same judicial fairness as the 56 spectators who burnt to death was made by Mr Edwin Glasgow, junior counsel representing the club.

His defence of the club's part in events leading up to the disaster came on the eleventh day of the hearing to determine liability for the deaths in a test case brought by Mrs Susan Fletcher whose husband, John, aged 34, son Andrew, aged 11, brother-in-law Peter and his father, Edmund, aged 64, died in the fire.

Bringing a similar claim for liability against the football club, the Health and Safety

Executive and the now defunct West Yorkshire County Council is Police Sergeant David Britton who was injured in the fire while trying to rescue victims. His case is being supported by the Police Federation.

Summing up for the club Mr Glasgow admitted it could not be seriously disputed that all three defendants were at fault. The only issue was what legal liability should be attached to each defendant and what proportion of the blame they should carry.

Mr Glasgow said that had proper warning been given to the football club about the potential hazard present in its grandstand it would have acted; instead it had been actively lulled into a false sense of security and therefore both public bodies made a substantial contribution to what occurred.

The Government's Health and Safety Executive, Mr Glasgow said, had behaved in an extraordinarily uncharacteristic way and allowed a misleading impression to be given about the liaison which existed between them and the county council who were also the local fire authority.

In evidence Mr John Laird,

area principal inspector for the Health and Safety Executive, had admitted that the hazard at the stadium had first been recognized in 1980 but in the succeeding four years nothing had been done about it, Mr Glasgow said.

He added: "Mr Laird said he did not trust the club because they had not done what they had said they would do but he does nothing because he trusts to fate and ignoring elaborate liaison with the fire brigade just presumes they will act".

That Mr Laird had judged that because of the thickness of timber in the stand there was no serious risk showed a serious misjudgement or demonstrated him unfit for his job, Mr Glasgow said.

Also letters sent to the club in 1984 did nothing to ring alarm bells among club directors.

West Yorkshire County Council was also criticized by Mr Glasgow who described its reaction to the situation at Valley Parade as similar to the stable door being repeatedly slammed shut after the horse had already bolted.

"We are not trying to say that anyone owed the club a duty, we are merely saying the duty owed by the club to its



Chief Insp Charles Mawson with his wife, Jane, at Buckingham Palace.

Palace honour for heroes

Ten men whose courage saved scores of lives at the Bradford City fire disaster collected gallantry awards from the Queen yesterday at Buckingham Palace.

Recipients at the ceremony who received the Queen's Gallantry Medal were: Police

Sergeant David Britton; Mr Richard Gough, an installation engineer from Shipley; Mr David Hestler, aged 47, an assistant supermarket manager, also from Shipley; Police Constable Richard Ingham,

Chief Inspector Charles Mawson and Chief Inspector Terence Slocombe.

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct was presented to: PC Peter Barrett; Mr Michael Bland, aged 27, an asbestos remover from Bradford; Mr Timothy Leigh, and PC David Midgeley.

form their statutory duties." Mr Glasgow spoke scathingly of the "magic wand of policy wielded with great dexterity by the county council's fairy godmother", a reference to Mr Keith Goddard, QC, representing the

county council, and said that "those whose eyes were currently blinkered will now have them forced open by the amount of damages which they would be ordered to pay."

The case continues today.

£62,000 damages against police after man's death

The widow of a man whose body was found frozen in the snow a week after the police took him from his home after a domestic dispute was awarded £62,537 in damages yesterday.

Lord McCuskey was told at the Court of Session in Edinburgh that the police failed to take reasonable care of Mr Anthony Wilson, aged 26, a scaffolder, and exposed him to unnecessary risk.

Mrs Jennifer Wilson, aged 30, of Jubilee Avenue, Deans, Livingston, had sued the chief constable of Lothian and Borders police and two of his constables for £135,000 for herself and her three children. She claimed the police should have known that in her husband's intoxicated state, and with the cold weather, he would have difficulty in finding his way home.

Mr Wilson was taken from their home, formerly in Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, at 5am, on January 5, 1982, but was released from the police car on a lonely country road on the outskirts of the city. He died from hypothermia and was later found in a snow-covered field.

Lord McCuskey said he concluded that death was caused by a breach of common law duty. There was no evidence to suggest that Mr Wilson had been deliberately released in a remote area to "teach him a lesson". But the

two constables failed to exercise reasonable care. The police denied at the hearing that they were negligent during the incident.

It was plain from the evidence, Lord McCuskey said, that PC James Halliday, aged 38, had taken charge of the incident and the judge absolved the second officer, PC Ian Deas, aged 32, of blame. Both men are still serving constables in the force.

A spokesman for Lothian and Borders police said yesterday: "The chief constable has received a copy of Lord McCuskey's opinion."

"Our legal representatives are considering it, with a view to determining whether there should be an appeal."

"The two officers were subjected to formal disciplinary proceedings in 1982."

● The family of Mr Michael Burdon, a Scottish property executive, who died after a road accident in Northumberland in August 1984, were awarded £255,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

His widow, Mrs Gail Burdon, aged 30, of Rockwell Grove, Mansel Road, Linlithgow, Lothian, will receive £180,000. The other £75,000 will be added to an existing trust fund for the couple's daughter, Caroline, aged four. Mr Burdon died in a head-on crash on the Alnwick bypass.

'Blackmail of Harrods owner'

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Ali Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods, has been named as the victim of an alleged £500,000 blackmail attempt.

Yesterday Mr Abbas Al-Bassan, aged 28, an Iraqi electronics student at Loughborough College, was charged at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court with making an unwarranted demand in a letter to Mr Al-Fayed.

He was released on bail, with a condition that he deposited £5,000 at the court.

Mr Al-Bassan was also ordered to surrender his passport and any other travel documents to police and told to live at his home in Epping Walk, Hulse, Manchester.

Harrods was taken over by the Al-Fayed Investment Trust in November 1984 from House of Fraser in a £138 million deal.

The company is controlled by Mr Ali Al-Fayed and his brother, Muhammad, who come from one of the wealthiest families in Egypt.

Doctors accused of fraud

A husband-and-wife team of doctors was accused yesterday of receiving cash for fictitious treatment.

Dr Susan Openshaw, a Somerset county councillor, faces three charges of dishonesty claiming a total of £18 for carrying out smear tests for cervical cancer on three women.

Her husband, Dr William Openshaw, medical officer at Millfield School in Street, Somerset, was charged with obtaining £60 in the name of a patient through a falsified maternity services claim.

The couple, from Bove Town, Glastonbury, Somerset, also faced three joint charges of obtaining a total of £165 for maternity services in the names of three patients.

It was alleged that the two GPs, who work at Glastonbury Health Clinic, have defrauded Somerset Family Practitioners Committee of a total of £250.

Magistrates at Glastonbury adjourned the case, which was heard in the couple's absence, until December 23.

Science report

Doctors discover why people snore

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Doctors at a sleep research laboratory have found that people who snore can be divided into different categories.

They have found that differences between people's lung capacity and the shape of their pharynx explain why some snore — it is similar to the way the power and resonance of a musical organ depends on the size of its bellows and the design of its pipes.

The researchers measured the effect of variations in the shape and size of the cavity at the back of the nose and the mouth, which forms the pharynx and found the pharynx was smaller in snorers than in non-snorers.

The investigation by doctors from three hospitals and the University of Toronto in Canada showed how snoring became a medical condition in some individuals, because it interfered with breathing and disrupted sleep.

The 25 volunteers examined by a team working with Dr Douglas Bradley, of Toronto General Hospital, were all

healthy men of average weight.

There were 10 whose sleep was disturbed because of obstructions to breathing when they snored. Another six snored, but suffered no restriction in breathing.

A third control group of nine non-snorers was used in the comparisons.

The doctors' findings are described in the latest issue of *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The presence or absence of snoring was established first by monitoring each person in overnight stays at the sleep laboratory. The pattern of their breathing and lung volume during sleep was measured at the same time.

Later measurements were made when the individuals were awake.

Those who snored were distinguished from those who did not by a narrowing of the pharynx while breathing.

The *New England Journal of Medicine*, Volume 315, P 1327-1331, 1986.

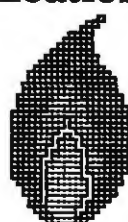
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Postal applications must be received by 10am next Wednesday, December 3rd. Use first class post and allow at least 2 days for delivery.

Alternatively, hand in your application at any UK branch of NatWest, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank before close of business next Tuesday, December 2nd.



British Gas
SHARE
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UP AGAINST TIME by Jeanne Willis and Trevor Melvin



EVERY PENNY HELPS

Do you know what it is like to be really cold, with no way to get warm and nobody to turn to? We know. Friends of the Elderly have been helping the old and lonely for over eighty years. Every penny helps at such stark moments. These are proud old people who want to stay in their own homes despite everything.

Please be a friend and send a donation — today. You can be sure it will be used efficiently to provide for the old and needy, wherever they are. Friends of the Elderly can only cope with a fraction of these sad cases. With your help we can do so much more to make old age a happy and dignified time — but we urgently need the funds.

Please send donations to:
The General Secretary,
Friends of the Elderly (Dept.)
42, Ebury Street,
LONDON SW1W 0LZ.
Registered charity number: 226064 OF THE ELDERLY.
We also run eleven residential homes for the elderly.



WORLD SUMMARY

British TV dominates US Emmy awards

Britain took three of the five 1986 International TV Emmy Awards announced in New York yesterday (Christopher Thomas writes). Japan and Canada took the other two.

The award is presented by the US Academy of TV Arts and Sciences. *Shadowlands*, the BBC production about writer C.S. Lewis, took the drama award. The programme, set in 1950, centres on a fan letter the author received from an American woman who transformed his life.

The documentary prize went to Channel 4's production of *Chasing a Rainbow: the life of Josephine Baker*, which reassembled from film photographs and paintings the life of the cabaret star, French resistance fighter, civil rights activist and friend of the rich and powerful.

Independent Central Television's *Spiriting Image*, the satirical show using puppets to lampoon prominent people, won the popular Arts category.

Canadian Broadcasting Company's *The Kids of Degrassi Street: Griff gets a hand* won the children's division. The series follows the adventures of a group of children from East End Toronto.

The Japan Broadcasting Corporation's *Bejari's Kabuki Ballet* received the performing Arts Award.

Diplomat defects

Bonn — A first secretary at the Chinese Embassy in Bonn and his wife have asked for political asylum in West Germany, it was disclosed yesterday (John England writes).

Early reports said the couple had approached the International Society for Human Rights, in Bonn, and said they were dissatisfied with the communist system in China.

The diplomat was said to have been in charge of the embassy's economic affairs department.

The defection is the first by a Chinese diplomat in West Germany.

Captain guilty

Tel Aviv (Reuter) — An Israeli sea captain accused of forcing a Kenyan stow-away onto a makeshift raft off the East African coast in 1982 was acquitted yesterday of endangering human life but convicted on lesser charges.

A Haifa District Court found Captain Avner Gilad, aged 59, guilty of aggravated assault and transporting a man in a dangerous vehicle.

The court said Captain Gilad did not intend to harm the Kenyan seaman, whose fate is unknown. He faces up to nine years jail.

Police free family

Lisbon — Two escaped prisoners held a Portuguese family hostage near Loule, in the Algarve, for more than a month and a half before being captured by the police on Monday (Martha de la Cal writes).

The Cavaco cousins, José and Vitor, were in a band of six prisoners who broke out of Portugal's high security Pinheiro da Cruz prison on July 28, killing three guards and wounding two others.

After evading police for nearly three months the Cavacos broke into the home of Senhor Rogelio de Brito, a municipal gardener in Loule, and held him and his French wife, their six-year-old daughter and his 73-year-old mother hostage under pain of death for more than six weeks.

On Monday police surrounded the house. The Cavacos, outnumbered, surrendered and turned over their guns.

Galvin for Nato

Washington — US Army General Bernard Rogers is expected to retire as Nato Supreme Commander next year and to be replaced by General John Galvin, left, C-in-C US Southern Command in Panama, (Maksia Ali writes).

A Pentagon spokesman, however, declined to confirm a report that General Galvin would take over next summer.

Job for tragedy ship

Oslo — The cruise liner that survived the disastrous collision with the *Andrea Doria* in 1951 may end its days as a hostel for refugees (Tony Samstag writes).

Norwegian officials confirmed yesterday that negotiations were in progress for purchase of the American-owned Stockholm, renamed *Volker* after the tragedy, which claimed more than 50 lives.

The ship, currently at Southampton, would accommodate 600 people, relieving pressure on another vessel used for the purpose in the harbour at Drammen, southwest of Oslo.

Like its Scandinavian neighbours Denmark and Sweden, Norway has been reeling under a recent influx of refugees as other European countries tighten up on immigration policies. More than 3,000 refugees — mostly from Iran, Eritrea and Chile — have entered the country this year.

It can take up to six months for a political asylum application to be heard and, in a country that prides itself on its tradition of hospitality, most are accepted in any case.

At least one Palestinian was killed and 24 others were wounded, police said.

The mainstream Shia Amal militia of Mr Nabih Berri, the Justice Minister, broke into the eastern part of Magdoushe and recaptured at least one-third of the town from Mr Yasser Arafat's PLO guerrillas, they said.

Amal claimed it had recaptured the town about three miles south-east of the port city of Sidon.

Reporters and photographers were unable to get into Magdoushe, but said they could see smoke billowing from several parts of the town.

Police said thousands of Shia militiamen mounted the counter-offensive from the coastal town of Ghazieh and the inland village of Anqoun.

They said Israeli helicopters flew several reconnaissance missions overnight, apparently to monitor the fighting.

In Damascus, representatives of the warring groups met again yesterday. Mr George Havi, the Lebanese Communist Party leader, who attended the meeting, said they were "about to reach a settlement" that could end the hostilities.

At least 40 people were killed and 83 wounded in the PLO's thrust from Sidon's refugee camps of Ein el-Hilweh and Miyeh-Miyeh on Monday. It was the largest offensive in south Lebanon by Mr Arafat's PLO fighters since the Israeli invasion of 1982.

White House crisis: Poindexter resigns

Israel acted two years ago

By Michael Evans
Whitehall Correspondent

As Washington was rocked by the resignation of Admiral John Poindexter over the Iran arms deal fiasco, new details emerged of the Israeli connection in the affair.

According to authoritative sources yesterday, the US Administration asked the Israeli Government about two years ago if it would support a pro-Iranian policy in the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq.

Israel had already decided that it made both strategic and economic sense to try to keep links with Iran and backed the pro-Iranian school in Washington.

According to the sources, the Israeli Government had three key reasons for its decision to sell arms to Iran and to barter with Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

The first was fear for the lives of 50,000 Jews in Iran. Although a number had managed to leave the country, the rest were considered by the Israeli Government as potential hostages and it was decided to do everything possible to get them out of Iran.

This included the sale of weapons to Iran, not directly, but through intermediaries.

The sources said yesterday that all the arms deals carried out by licensed Israeli arms dealers were first approved by the Defence Ministry in Israel and then by Washington.

The sources said: "The proper officials within the US Administration were informed of all the arms deals with Iran. No such deals could have taken place without the approval of the US."

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday that Israel had a policy of not selling arms to Iran, but was willing to make an exception to help a friend (Reuter reports from Jerusalem). His remarks were the closest Mr Shamir has come to publicly admitting that Israel was involved in the arms-for-hostages deal.

Initial congressional reaction was one of shock and outrage. Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic majority leader in the House of Representatives, said Congress would insist on investigating the matter and "bring it all out into the open."

He said that between \$3 million and \$4 million from the arms sale was not accounted for. It "defies credibility" that Colonel North was acting on his own in handling the deal, he added.

Continued from page 1
Reagan Administration's decision to force down an Egyptian aircraft carrying the Arab terrorists who hijacked the Achille Lauro cruise ship last year.

In Washington circles, all that was really known about Colonel North amounted to cocktail circuit gossip, press speculation and some sketchy biographical background.

Born in Texas, Oliver North — "Ollie" to friends — had graduated from the US Naval Academy in the late 1960s, opting for the Marines and the certainty of front-line duty in Vietnam. He emerged from the lost war with the scars of two wounds, America's third highest combat decoration and a tight circle of fellow officers who shared his passionate belief that Communism must be confronted wherever it showed its head.

According to insiders, one of North's first assignments with Marine Corps headquarters in Washington was to lead a detachment of US troops into the mountains of Eastern Turkey in case they were needed in the bid (ultimately aborted) to free the captives in the American embassy in Teheran.

A year later, he was whisked away from routine desk duties by fellow Marine and Vietnam veteran Robert McFarlane, then serving as the Reagan Administration's National Security Adviser. That particular wheel turned full circle with the revelation that McFarlane and North were working together again in attempts to use Iranian influence to secure the release of



President Reagan, facing the biggest storm of his presidency over clandestine arms shipments to Iran, which have forced Admiral John Poindexter's resignation.

Two Reagan aides go in Iran arms deal money scandal

Continued from page 1
friends of the President that Mr Shultz be sacked. But he resigned pointedly: "I think every member of the Administration owes it to the president to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him."

The US sent over 2,000 TOW anti-tank missiles to Iran, as well as some 500 Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and it is not known what they paid, or who legally owned the money that was transferred to the Contras.

President Reagan, who is leaving today for his California ranch for the Thanksgiving holiday, has ordered an interim Justice Department report by Monday.

No one in the Administration other than Colonel North knew of the siphoning off of funds for the Contras. Colonel North, who was questioned extensively by the Justice Department over the weekend, is now expected to retire from the Marine Corps follow-

ing his dismissal from the NSC.

Admiral Poindexter, who resigned after Mr Meese was told of the Contra connection, is returning to the Navy.

Mr Reagan was told about this latest twist in the affair as soon as Mr Meese found out. The President refused to answer reporters' questions yesterday, except to say defiantly "No" when asked again whether his Iran policy had been a mistake.

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He said that between \$3 million and \$4 million from the arms sale was not accounted for. It "defies credibility" that Colonel North was acting on his own in handling the deal, he added.

Colonel's shadowy world

Continued from page 1
Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Those who have worked with the slender, bespectacled Colonel North insist that despite his considerable expertise on the ground, he is the antithesis of the "knuckle-dragging" school of covert operators. A quiet but articulate speaker, given to working break-taking hours in his modest quarters next door to the White House, he is described as a decent, unassuming patriot (even if he does claim to be a descendant of Lord North, British Prime Minister of the day when America won its independence).

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Jerusalem's role

Man in the News

Background of an 'invisible man'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Admiral John Poindexter, for long the "invisible man" in the National Security Council, has been at the centre of the crisis over the Iran arms shipment. As the public furor grew, his exposed position became increasingly intolerable. He left yesterday, requesting a transfer back to the Navy, with no successor, with complete disarray in the NSC and with new and devastating accusations of illegality hanging over him.

The embarrassing end of his public career came amid the worst crisis the Reagan Administration has faced. And Admiral Poindexter, like the loyal naval officer he is, accepted responsibility to protect the President from the devastating charges that are now being made.

Mr Reagan himself admitted that he had not been "directly involved". The President did, however, admit two weeks ago that he may have "misjudged" over whom he could trust in Iran. The admission came after increasingly bitter criticism from Congress and the press at the way the NSC was run during his 11 months in office. There were charges that the body had abused its power, bypassed the regular accountable government agencies and engaged in a number of high-risk, hare-brained operations, ranging from secret involvement with American mercenaries fighting against Nicaragua to the "disinformation" campaign against Libya.

In all this, Admiral Poindexter, a man who preferred to work in the background and who rarely gave press interviews, counselled a policy of not disclosing the details of the Iran operation. But it was too late. Even his predecessor, Mr Robert McFarlane, called on him to speak out. And the latest disclosure of his chief adviser, Colonel Oliver North, made his departure inevitable.

Admiral Poindexter, aged 50, was the 14th National Security Adviser since the post

was established in 1953. He graduated from the US Naval Academy after coming top in his class and in 1964 he earned a PhD in nuclear physics from the California Institute of Technology.

In his naval career, to which he now returns, he commanded a guided missile cruiser and a destroyer squadron and in 1971 became an aide to the Secretary of the Navy. In 1978, he served as deputy chief of naval education and chief of naval operations, before moving to the NSC three years later.

He was a surprise choice when he took over from Mr McFarlane, because of his low-key approach and his lack of political weight, considered essential to resolve the chronic conflicts between the Pentagon and the State Department. But many inside the NSC were pleased with his military pragmatism, his non-ideological approach, his energy and his intellect.

However, he failed to establish a political base in his 11 months in office.

Congressmen said, that unlike McFarlane, he rarely consulted them or explained White House thinking. The press found him elusive. And he did not play a big role in the vital question of arms control policy, or success in stopping the funding between factions in the Administration.

Behind the scenes he masterminded several spectacular successes: the interception of the Egyptian airliner carrying the Achille Lauro hijackers and, more recently, the strike against Libya.

But later operations backfired. He was blamed for giving poor advice on South Africa. His memorandum of destabilising Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, caused a big row because of his apparent readiness to engage in a campaign of disinformation. And finally, the disastrous connection between the Iranian arms sale and the illegal funding of the Contras in Nicaragua was what has prompted a full-scale Presidential inquiry into the body he headed.

Three ships hit in Iraqi raid on Larak Island

Bahrain (Reuter) — Iraqi jets yesterday attacked six targets in western Iran and flew a 1,560-mile round trip to attack the Larak Island off the Gulf for the first time.

Gulf shipping sources said two Cypriot-registered supertankers were on fire at Larak and an Iranian tanker had also been hit. Iranian helicopters lifted casualties from the vessels, one source said.

A Baghdad High Command communiqué, calling the raid "a miracle and unique" said targets destroyed included "terminal buildings, storage tanks, oil tankers, equipment and men".

Another communiqué said 54 jets simultaneously attacked an army base, an air base, training camps and a Hawk anti-aircraft missile battery in and around Dezful in western Iran where officials

said 30 civilians were killed. Iraq said one of the Dezful raiders was shot down.

All the planes which took part in the Larak raid were reported to have returned safely to base. The high command did not say how many were on that mission.

Analysts said the distance flown suggested the Iraqi jets may have been refuelled in the air.

Larak is crucial to Iran's export strategy, which relies on tankers to shuttle oil down the Gulf to terminals at or near its mouth.

Terminals near the mouth of the Gulf were thought to be out of Iraqi range until August 12, when a devastating raid on Sirri Island, some 110 nautical miles farther inside the Gulf, forced a shift of operations to Larak. Since then, Iranian oil exports have been significantly reduced.

Battle rages in town captured by PLO

Sidon (AP) — Street fighting raged in a strategic hilltop town in south Lebanon on Tuesday as Shia Muslim militiamen tried to dislodge PLO guerrillas from highlands captured a day earlier.

At least one Palestinian was killed and 24 others were wounded, police said.

The mainstream Shia Amal militia of Mr Nabih Berri, the Justice Minister, broke into the eastern part of Magdoushe and recaptured at least one-third of the town from Mr Yasser Arafat's PLO guerrillas, they said.

Amal claimed it had recaptured the town about three miles south-east of the port city of Sidon.

Reporters and photographers were unable to get into Magdoushe, but said they could see smoke billowing from several parts of the town.

Police said thousands of Shia militiamen mounted the counter-offensive from the coastal town of Ghazieh and the inland village of Anqoun.

They said Israeli helicopters flew several reconnaissance missions overnight, apparently to monitor the fighting.

In Damascus, representatives of the warring groups met again yesterday. Mr George Havi, the Lebanese Communist Party leader, who attended the meeting, said they were "about to reach a settlement" that could end the hostilities.

At least 40 people were killed and 83 wounded in the PLO's thrust from Sidon's refugee camps of Ein el-Hilweh and Miyeh-Miyeh on Monday. It was the largest offensive in south Lebanon by Mr Arafat's PLO fighters since the Israeli invasion of 1982.



A young Palestinian guerrilla helping to load machine-gun ammunition into belts near Magdoushe yesterday as Amal militia fought to recapture the Lebanese town.

Muslims call for UN protection

From Ian Murray
Jerusalem

The worried leader of Jerusalem's Islamic community called yesterday for an international peace-keeping force to be sent into the Old City to restore order.

Sheikh Sad Eddin al-Ahmedi used his authority as chairman of the Waqf, the Higher Islamic Council, which controls the Muslim holy places, to call in the small corps of UN peacekeepers in East Jerusalem.

He said the UN force should be sent to the Old City to restore order. He said the UN force should be sent to the Old City to restore order.

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Courtroom trial for Bokassa

Bangui, Central African Republic (Reuter) — The former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa will go on trial today in a court, not in a sports stadium, the Information Minister, Mr Joaquin da Silva-Nzengue, said yesterday.

He said the Central African Republic had never officially announced that the trial would be held in a converted basketball stadium and accused international reporters of manipulating information about the trial.

Mr Bokassa, aged 65, will be tried on charges including killing children, concealing corpses, assassination and embezzlement before he was toppled with the help of French troops in 1979.

Scores of television journalists and photographers who have descended on Bangui would not be allowed to film the trial.

"I do not think that in France, in England, in the United States, in Germany or in Spain... that there would be an army of cameras to film a case, especially if the room is small," the Information Minister said.

He said more than 100 international journalists had so far flown in to the trial, which would be covered live by the republic's radio and television in a room which could hold 300 people.

He said reporters would be allowed to take notes during the trial. Mr Silva-Nzengue said the Government had not decided where to hold the trial until yesterday.

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Exercise in Oman
Tornadoes display Britain's rapid deployment power

From Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent
Masirah, Oman

Six RAF Tornado aircraft, landing through a shimmering heat haze around the island air base of Masirah in the Arabian Sea, yesterday marked a spectacularly successful phase of the important United Kingdom-Omani military exercise, Saif Sareea.

They had taken off from bases in England more than 10 hours earlier and flew 4,200 miles non-stop, with each aircraft being refuelled up to seven times by Tristar tankers.

It was the longest non-stop flight ever made by the Tornados, and its success was a key element in achieving the main aim of the exercise, to demonstrate Britain's capability for a rapid strategic deployment out of a Nato area.

For the pilots and navigators it was a demanding, arduous flight, strapped into their seats in G-suits. To help pass the hours through the night they played music tapes over cockpit sound systems.

Wing Commander Rick Peacock-Edwards, commanding officer of 229 Operational Conversion Unit based at Coningsby, was fired and nursing aching muscles when he climbed out of his cockpit, but said: "It was a long night but everything went exceptionally well. The aircraft are ready to go back into action almost straight away."

Exercise Saif Sareea (Swift Sword) has been designed to test lessons learned during the Falklands campaign. Following the conflict in the South Atlantic, the chiefs of staff within the Ministry of Defence decided that future operations outside the Nato area should be conducted by a joint force headquarters.

The tasks envisaged for forces assigned in the future might range from the evacuation of British nationals to providing assistance in response to a request from a friendly country. The exercise scenario is based around a request from the Sultan of Oman's forces for help in repelling an incursion by invading forces from the imagined island of Fantasia.

About 5,000 men from all three British services are taking part and the British involvement is now reaching its peak with a planned amphibious landing and parachute drop today.

Among the Royal Navy ships involved is the carrier HMS *Illustrious*. Early this year, at the start of a round-the-world voyage, a fire in a gearbox sent the ship back to dock for three months and yesterday it was learnt that a further problem now meant she was only operating on three of her four engines.

Snags for Austrian coalition

From Richard Bassett
Vienna

Dr Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, formally presented the resignation of his Government yesterday after the weekend's general election.

As Dr Vranitzky only achieved a relative majority, he must attempt to form a new coalition Government. He has made it clear that he would favour a "grand coalition" between his Socialist Party and the conservative People's Party.

But at a press conference given by Herr Alois Mock, the leader of the People's Party, yesterday the chances of such a coalition seemed to have diminished.

Herr Mock has survived for the moment despite calls for his resignation after his party's disastrous showing at the polls. As he continues to refuse serving as Vice-Chancellor under Dr Vranitzky, speculation increases that he may be prepared for a coalition with the Freedom Party.

"If there is no other solution, it must come to that though it is not my favourite model," Herr Mock said yesterday.

Should such a coalition emerge over the next few weeks, it is unlikely that Austria would move politically significantly to the right.

FRANCIS RESULTS
(In brackets 1983 results)

Socialist — 42.13 (47.8)
People's — 41.29 (43.2)
Freedom — 8.73 (4.98)
Greens — 4.82 (1.30)

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Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital, issued and to be issued, of the Company, to be admitted to the Official List. The following information should be read in conjunction with the full text of the Listing Particulars dated 21st November, 1986 relating to British Gas plc, copies of which are available at British Gas showrooms, clearing bank branches and post offices. You are advised to read the Listing Particulars before returning your application form.

APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Applications

Applications must be received by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986 (or before close of business on Tuesday, 2nd December, 1986, if the form is taken by hand to any U.K. branch of National Westminster Bank PLC, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank Limited). Photocopies of application forms will not be accepted in any circumstances. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(b) Allocations of shares

The basis of allocation of the shares is expected to be announced by Monday, 8th December, 1986.

If you are successful, in whole or in part, you will be sent a temporary document of title (a letter of acceptance) for the shares allocated to you.

If there is heavy demand for the shares, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for or, in some cases, none at all.

If your application is not accepted or is only accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) all money paid on application or a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid on application.

(c) Dealings

It is expected that dealings on The Stock Exchange will commence at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 8th December, 1986. Letters of acceptance are expected to be sent to successful applicants on Monday, 15th December, 1986. Applicants who deal before receipt of a letter of acceptance will do so at their own risk. You should also note that some dealers in shares may insist on seeing your letter of acceptance before purchasing your shares.

You will not be liable for stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax on your application for shares. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will be liable to pay any stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax.

(d) Further instalments

You will be sent reminders in advance of the dates when the second and third instalments become payable. At the time the reminder is sent for the second instalment (due by 9th June, 1987) you will also be sent an Interim Certificate to replace the letter of acceptance despatched following the Offer. After you have paid your final instalment (due by 19th April, 1988) you will be sent your final share certificate. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

SPECIAL INCENTIVES

If you apply for shares in the Offer, you may be eligible to receive from the Government, free of charge, EITHER vouchers for use against gas bills from British Gas OR a share bonus. The special incentives are only available if you buy shares in the Offer and not if they are bought subsequently.

(a) Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for these special incentives, you must be an individual investing solely for your own benefit (or investing jointly with not more than three other individuals, solely for the benefit of one or more of you). Applications made by individuals on behalf of children may also qualify for the special incentives. Companies, partnerships, firms, trusts, associations and clubs are not eligible for these special incentives but they may apply as nominees for eligible individuals.

(b) Bill vouchers

For every whole multiple of 100 shares you buy in the Offer and hold continuously until certain qualifying dates, you can receive £10 worth of vouchers (up to a maximum entitlement of £250). The way in which the voucher scheme will work is illustrated in the table below:

Number of shares held continuously	ENTITLEMENT TO VOUCHERS ON THE QUALIFYING DATES						Total
	30th June 1987	31st Dec. 1987	30th June 1988	31st Dec. 1988	30th June 1989	31st Dec. 1989	
100	£10	—	—	—	—	—	£10
200	£20	—	—	—	—	—	£20
300	£30	—	—	—	—	—	£30
400	£40	—	—	—	—	—	£40
500	£40	£10	—	—	—	—	£50
600	£40	£20	—	—	—	—	£60
700	£40	£30	—	—	—	—	£70
800	£40	£40	—	—	—	—	£80
900	£40	£40	£10	—	—	—	£90
1,000	£40	£40	£20	—	—	—	£100
1,500	£40	£40	£40	£30	—	—	£150
2,000	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	—	£200
2,500 or more	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£50	£250

EXAMPLE: If you receive 500 shares in the Offer you will be entitled to a voucher of £40 on 30th June, 1987 and a voucher of £10 on 31st December, 1987, provided you hold the shares until 31st December, 1987. If you only hold the shares until 30th November 1987, you will only be entitled to a voucher of £40.

On each qualifying date you will be entitled to one voucher, worth £10 for every whole multiple of 100 shares bought in the Offer and held continuously until then, less the value of the vouchers already received. However, the maximum voucher value on any qualifying date will be £40 (£50 on the last qualifying date).

The voucher will be posted to you about two weeks after each qualifying date.

Your vouchers can be used when making any payment due to British Gas, if that payment includes charges for gas supplied (or standing charges) for your use or benefit in your home. Details of these arrangements will be issued with the vouchers.

(c) Share bonus

You will be entitled to one additional share for every ten shares which you buy in the Offer and continue to hold up to and including 31st December, 1989. The maximum number of additional shares you can receive is 500. There will be no right to receive fractions of shares.

The additional shares will be transferred to you as soon as reasonably practicable after 31st December, 1989 (together with all rights attaching to those shares at the date of transfer). Any stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax on or in respect of the transfer will be met by the Government.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Acceptance of applications will be conditional on (i) the Ordinary Shares, issued and to be issued, being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange not later than 31st December, 1986, and (ii) the provisions relating to termination of the U.K. Underwriting Agreement referred to in Part G of Section VII of the Prospectus dated 21st November, 1986, commencing the interim particulars relating to British Gas plc (the "Prospectus") not being implemented. Application money will be returned (without interest) if either of these conditions is not satisfied and, in the meantime, if payment for the shares is made by a receiving bank in a separate account. Rights are reserved for the Secretary of State and his agents to present for payment and otherwise process all cheques and bankers' drafts received and to have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, such cheques, bankers' drafts and the processing thereof. The right is also reserved to treat as void any application not in all respects completed in accordance with the instructions accompanying the relevant application form.

2. Acceptance of an application by an eligible investor who has elected for the share bonus or bill vouchers will entitle that investor to the share bonus or bill vouchers (as the case may be) on the terms, and subject to the conditions, set out in Section VIII of the Prospectus.

3. A valid application made by or on behalf of a person who is eligible for the Customer Share Scheme on a green customer application form delivered to that person by or on behalf of the British Gas Share Information Office will, subject to the terms and conditions, be treated to the extent described in paragraph 2(b) of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus.

4. By completing and delivering an application form, you:

(a) offer to purchase from the Secretary of State the number of Ordinary Shares specified in your application form (each smaller number of shares which the application is accepted) on the terms of, and subject to the conditions set out in, the Prospectus and the Instalment Agreement (and, in due course, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company) and agree to become a party to and be bound by all relevant provisions of the Instalment Agreement;

(b) as a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State which will become binding on you if the application is accepted, to deliver your application and in consideration of the Secretary of State agreeing that he will not, prior to 1st January, 1987 offer any of the Ordinary Shares to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus;

(c) agree that your application cannot be revoked prior to 1st January, 1987; and

(d) warrant that your remittance will be honoured on first presentation and agree that any letter of acceptance and any moneys returnable may be held pending clearance of your payment;

(e) if you complete a box to apply for bill vouchers or the share bonus thereby;

(f) warrant that you are eligible to do so in accordance with the provisions set out in Part A of Section VIII of the Prospectus;

(g) agree that, if you elect for bill vouchers, you will comply with the conditions of use thereof set out in paragraph 1(b) of Part B of Section VIII of the Prospectus; and

(h) agree that, if you complete both boxes, you will be deemed to have elected for the share bonus only;

(i) if you make an application under the Customer Share Scheme) thereby warrant that:

(i) you, or if you are a nominee, all persons for whose benefit the application is made, are eligible for the Customer Share Scheme in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 2(a) of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus; and

(ii) so far as you are aware, no other application has been made under the Customer Share Scheme in respect of the same separately metered gas supply as that in respect of which your application is made;

(c) declare that you are not a U.S. or Canadian person and you are not applying on behalf of any such person, "U.S. or Canadian person" having the meaning set out in paragraph 4 of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus;

(f) agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under this Offer shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England;

(g) warrant that:

(a) if this application is made for your own benefit) no other application is being made for your benefit by you or by anyone applying as your agent or, so far as you are aware, by any other person;

(ii) if the application is made by you as agent for or for the benefit of another person) no other application for the benefit of that person is being made by you or, so far as you are aware, by that person or by any other person; and

(iii) if you sign the application form as agent for someone else, you have the authority to do so on behalf of that other person;

(h) agree that, in respect of those Ordinary Shares for which your application has been received and processed and is not rejected, acceptance of your application shall be constituted, at the election of the Secretary of State, either (i) by notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case such acceptance shall be on that basis) or (ii) by notification of acceptance thereof to the relevant receiving bank;

(i) authorise the relevant receiving bank and the Custodian Bank to send a letter of acceptance for the number of Ordinary Shares for which your application is accepted and for a cheque for any money returnable by post at your risk to the address of the person (or the first-named person) named in the application form and to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of holders of interim rights in respect of such Ordinary Shares and to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Ordinary Shares, the entitlement to which is evidenced by Interim Certificates and the right to which has not been effectively transferred; and in these terms and conditions references to rights being effectively transferred mean the remittance(s) being registered by a receiving bank in relation to such rights;

(j) agree that all documents in connection with the share bonus or bill voucher arrangements may be sent by post at your risk to the person (or, in the case of joint applicants, the first person) named in the application form to his or her address set out therein or such other address as may from time to time appear in the register of holders of interim rights or the register of members of the Company against the name of such person;

(k) agree that time of payment by you shall be of the essence of each contract constituted by acceptance of your application and undertakes to pay the second instalment by, and for value not later than, 3 p.m. on 9th June, 1987 and the final instalment by, and for value not later than, 3 p.m. on 19th April, 1988 for the Ordinary Shares in respect of which your application is accepted and the right to which has not been effectively transferred or transferred in accordance with the Instalment Agreement by you prior to the relevant time and date;

(l) agree that, without prejudice to any other rights to which you may be entitled, you will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance of your application; and

(m) confirm that, in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to British Gas or the Offer other than information and representations contained in the Prospectus or in the mini prospectus published in connection with the Offer taken together with the Prospectus (the "prospectuses") and accordingly you agree that no person responsible for the prospectuses shall have any liability for any such information or representation other than as aforesaid.

No person receiving this application form in any territory other than the U.K., the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat it as constituting an invitation to him or her, or should he or she in any event use it, unless the relevant territory such as an investor could lawfully be made to him or her without compliance with any fulfilled registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the U.K., the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man receiving this application form and wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself or herself as to the observance of the laws of the relevant territory and to pay any transfer or other taxes requiring to be paid in such territory in respect of the shares acquired by him or her under this Offer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM BY POST (OR DELIVER IT BY HAND) TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1986 at the appropriate address below according to the first letter of your surname (or corporate name) inserted in Box 1.

A to C Bank of Scotland
New Issues Department,
Apex House,
9 Haddington Place,
Edinburgh EH7 4AL
or, by hand only, to
38 Threadneedle Street,
London EC2.

Ch to F Barclays Bank PLC
New Issues,
P.O. Box 123,
Fleetway House,
25 Farringdon Street,
London EC4A 4HD.

G to J Lloyds Bank Plc
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea, Worthing,
West Sussex BN12 6DA
or, by hand only, to
Registrar's Department,
Issue Section,
11 Bishopsgate,
London EC2.

K to M Midland Bank plc
Stock Exchange Services
Department,
Mariner House,
Peppes Street,
London EC3N 4DA.

N to S National Westminster
Bank PLC
New Issues Department,
P.O. Box 79,
2 Princes Street,
London EC2P 2BD.

S to Z The Royal Bank of
Scotland plc
Registrar's Department,
P.O. Box 435,
8 Bankhead Crossway North,
Edinburgh EH11 4BB
or, by hand only, to
New Issues Department,
24 Lombard Street,
London EC3.

USE FIRST CLASS POST AND ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY

OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND TO
ARRIVE BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON
TUESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1986
at any U.K. branch of National Westminster Bank PLC,
Bank of Scotland, or Ulster Bank Limited.

Additional receiving centres are open for deliveries by hand until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986. These are set out on the back of the application form in the mini prospectus and in the Listing Particulars.

GUIDE ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

If you wish to apply under the Customer Share Scheme, you must complete the GREEN FORM sent to you by the British Gas Share Information Office.
Or if you have received a personalised ORANGE FORM, you should complete that form.
Otherwise, please use the APPLICATION FORM below.
ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON.

Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use block capitals).

Applications must not be made by anyone under 18, but a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 may apply for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should put your own name in Box 1, and after your surname write "A/C" followed by the full names of the child. You are not thereby precluded from making a single application for your own benefit.

If you wish to apply jointly with another adult, see Note 7.

Put in Box 2 (in figures) the number of shares for which you are applying. You may only apply for one of the numbers of shares set out below. Applications for any other number of shares will be rejected.

Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now (50p per share)	Your total investment (135p per share)	Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now (50p per share)	Your total investment (135p per share)
100	£50	£135	1,000	£500	£1,350
200	£100	£270	1,500	£750	£2,025
300	£150	£405	2,000	£1,000	£2,700
400	£200	£540	2,500	£1,250	£3,375
500	£250	£675	3,000	£1,500	£4,050
600	£300	£810	3,500	£1,750	£4,725
700	£350	£945	4,000	£2,000	£5,400
800	£400	£1,080	4,500	£2,250	£6,075
900	£450	£1,215	5,000	£2,500	£6,750

Above 5,000 shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications	Multiples of
5,000 to 10,000 shares	1,000 shares
10,000 to 50,000 shares	5,000 shares
50,000 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

Using the table in Note 2, put in Box 3 (in figures) the amount you pay now.

Payment is in three instalments. The second instalment of 45p per share is payable by 3 p.m. on 9th June, 1987 and the final instalment of 40p per share by 3 p.m. on 19th April, 1988.

For bill vouchers, put "YES" in Box A. For the share bonus, put "YES" in Box B. COMPLETE ONE BOX ONLY.

If you complete both boxes you will be deemed to have applied for the share bonus only. If you do not complete either box, you will not receive bill vouchers or the share bonus. Before making your choice, you should read the details of the special incentives set out opposite.

Once the application form is submitted your choice may not be changed.

Sign and date the form in Box 5.

The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf if he is duly authorised to do so, but he must enclose his power of attorney.

A corporation must sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

WARNING

Only one application may be made for the benefit of any person. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for the benefit of any person.

Put in Box 6 a cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount you have entered in Box 3. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "British Gas Share Offer". Please ensure that it is crossed and write on it "Not Negotiable".

Your payment must relate solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your building society or a bank branch.

An application may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" in favour of the applicant(s).

JOINT APPLICANTS

You may apply jointly with up to three other people, provided each applicant is aged 18 or over. They should complete and sign Box 7.

Power(s) of attorney must be enclosed if anyone is signing on behalf of any joint applicant(s).

British Gas plc

PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

To The Secretary of State for Energy · National Westminster Bank PLC
N M Rothschild & Sons Limited · British Gas plc

Before completing this form, please read carefully the accompanying guide.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr, Mrs, Miss or title Forename(s) (in full)

Surname

Address

Post code

I/We offer to purchase

Ordinary Shares

in British Gas plc on and subject to the Terms and Conditions set out on this page and in the Prospectus comprising the Listing Particulars dated 21st November, 1986

and I/we attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount now payable of

£

I/We wish to receive

Bill vouchers

Share bonus

PLEASE WRITE "YES" IN ONE BOX ONLY

I declare that to my knowledge this is the only application made for my benefit (or that of the person(s) for whose benefit I am applying).

Date Signature

Pin here your cheque/bankers' draft for the amount in Box 3, payable to "British Gas Share Offer" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

JOINT APPLICANTS

The first applicant should sign Box 5. Using BLOCK CAPITALS, insert below the names of the other joint applicants, who must sign in the right hand column.

I/We join in this application and give the declaration set out above.

Mr, Mrs, Miss or title	Forename(s) (in full)	Surname	Signature
2nd joint applicant			
3rd joint applicant			
4th joint applicant			

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of other intermediaries claiming commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of other intermediaries claiming commission and VAT reg. no.
(If not registered for VAT, put "none")	(If not registered for VAT, put "none")	(If not registered for VAT, put "none")	(If not registered for VAT, put "none")
Acceptance no.	Shares accepted	Acceptance no.	Shares accepted
Commission calculated	Commission calculated	Commission calculated	Commission calculated

At Sainsbury's, the Christmas drinks bill is easier to swallow.



~~£6.59~~ **£6.25**
Sainsbury's Gin
Sainsbury's Blended Whisky 75cl

~~£7.95~~ **£7.59**
Teacher's Whisky 75cl

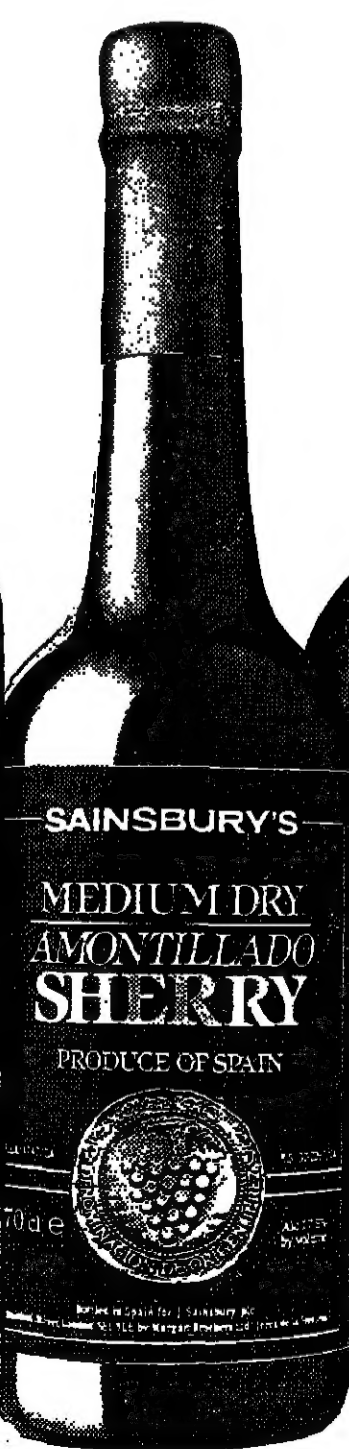
Sainsbury's Vin de Pays de l'Ardeche 70cl	£1.75
Sainsbury's Portuguese Rosé 70cl	£1.98 £1.88
Sainsbury's Niersteiner Gutes Domtal 70cl	£2.35 £2.15
Sainsbury's Vino Spumante 70cl	£2.58 £2.25
Sainsbury's Chianti Classico 75cl	£2.39
Sainsbury's Vin de Pays du Mont Bouquet 3 ltr	£6.95
Sainsbury's Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne 3 ltr	£6.95
Skona Lager 4 x 440ml	£1.39 £1.15
Farrier Bitter 4 x 440ml	£1.15
Sainsbury's Italian Vermouth 75cl	£1.99 £1.79
Bailey's Irish Cream 70cl	£6.45 £5.89
Smirnoff Vodka 75cl	£7.39 £6.95
Sainsbury's VSOP Cognac 70cl	£9.95
Sainsbury's 12 Year Old Highland Malt Whisky 75cl	£10.25



~~43p~~ **38p**
Sainsbury's Mixer Drinks 1 ltr



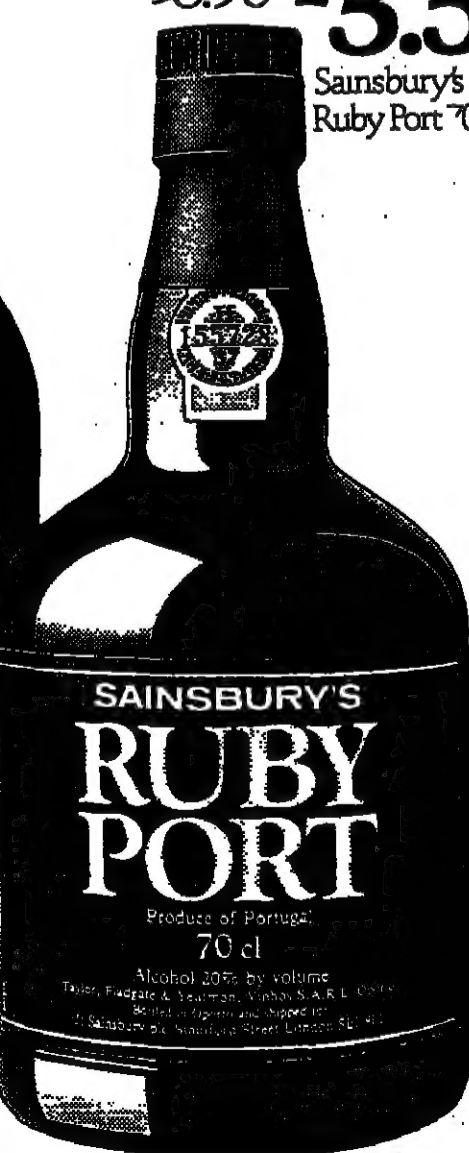
~~£2.49~~ **£2.19**
Martini 75cl



~~£2.85~~ **£2.69**
Sainsbury's Sherry 70cl



~~£2.69~~ **£2.19**
Emva Cream Cyprus Sherry 700ml



~~£3.95~~ **£3.59**
Sainsbury's Ruby Port 70cl



~~£2.29~~ **£1.95**
Sainsbury's Claret 70cl



~~£2.79~~ **£2.55**
Sainsbury's Liebfraumilch 1 ltr

Good drinks cost less at Sainsbury's.

Mafia leader charged
Teamster
Action f
going live
she at
hope on
farmers re
local solidarity

Mafia leaders charged over Teamsters election fraud

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Four leading crime bosses have been charged with carrying out a fraudulent scheme to ensure the election of Mr Jackie Presser as head of the Teamsters' union in 1983. The charges are another breakthrough in the FBI's intensive drive to clear the American labour movement of Mafia influence. Most of the attention is focused on the Teamsters and Mr Presser, himself a prime target. Last May a Federal Grand Jury in Cleveland indicted him for embezzlement and racketeering charges he denies. FBI agents have been dissecting the Teamsters' books for 32 months in its search for mobster links, which the Justice Department believes date back to the 1950s. One of those charged in the latest scandal is Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno, convicted boss of the Genovese crime group, who was among eight people found guilty last week of operating a "commission" that ruled the Mafia in the United States. The others named in the indictment are Milton (Mats) Rockman, John (Peas) Tronolone, and Vincent (Fish) Cafaro. Federal authorities have identified Mr Cafaro as captain of the Genovese crime group; Mr Tronolone, aged 75, as a member of the Cleveland crime group; and Mr Rockman, aged 73, as an associate of both groups. The US Justice Department is backing the drive against the mob in trade unionism. Four

Teachers seek place for blacks

From Michael Harnsby Johannesburg

There are 205,000 unused places in white-only schools in South Africa which could be filled by black pupils if the education system was desegregated, a report by the South African Teachers' Association (SATA) has revealed. The findings of the report, which also calls for state schools to be opened to children of all races, have been approved unanimously by SATA's membership, which represents more than 3,000 white, English-speaking teachers in Cape province. The Government, meanwhile, was accused yesterday of "injection" and "trying to bury" a report by the President's Council, a multi-racial advisory body which would have recommended relaxation of the Group Areas Act. This is the legislation which enforces segregation of residential areas, hospitals and schools, and is one of the chief remaining pillars of apartheid. According to informed sources, the report would have advocated a "local option", whereby those white municipal councils which wished to do so would be allowed to throw the area under their jurisdiction open to all races. The report would normally have been adopted after formal debate by the full council this week. But the council's steering committee, on which the ruling National Party has a majority, unexpectedly referred the report back to the constitutional committee for further study, a procedure which could mean a delay of at least six months.

Paris students protest at reform



Truncheon-wielding policemen watching a protest march by thousands of high school students in the Latin Quarter of Paris yesterday against a Bill to reform the university system that has triggered strikes at universities around France (AP reports from Paris). They converged on Boulevard St Mi-

Burst of activity as Britain tries to finalize EEC plans

From Richard Owen, Brussels

An "end-of-term" spate of activity is underway in Brussels in an attempt to finalize as much as possible of Britain's programme before it hands over the Presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers to Belgium next month. The farm spending crisis, the budget overrun and completion of the internal market are at the top of the agenda. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in an address to the English Speaking Union in Brussels that agricultural over-production had led to half of the EEC budget paying for the disposal or storage of surplus products, and this "simply cannot go on". The final rush to complete business starts today with a meeting of EEC budget ministers chaired by Mr Peter Brooke, Minister of State at the Treasury and President of the EEC Budget Council. There is also to be a final Internal Market Council meeting next Monday, just before the EEC London summit, and a marathon Farm Council meeting on December 8 and 9, coinciding with Mrs Thatcher's address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The budget ministers have to tackle the draft 1987 Budget before its second and final reading by the European Parliament next month. The Parliament has demanded extra spending of some £2 billion, partly to meet the cost of disposal of the surpluses. But the ministers also have to deal urgently with a dramatic shortfall in the 1986 budget, much of it due to the soaring costs of farm spending, the fall in the dollar - which affects the prices the

Shooting dashes Bonn hope

From John England Bonn

The shooting of a young East German who tried to escape to the West over the Berlin Wall on Monday has dashed Bonn's hopes that the order for East German border guards to use their guns against escapees had been relaxed. A number of escapes since August in which border guards fired no shots had led to speculation in the West German press that the guards might have turned a blind eye on orders from East Berlin.

The most spectacular recent escape was that of an East Berliner, aged 32, his woman companion, aged 28, and their daughter, aged eight months, who snaked through the barriers at Checkpoint Charlie in a seven-ton lorry. Guards fired three shots but the occupants were unhurt.

A few days later a family of four escaped by swimming the Wacknitz River after making their way through the border "death strip".

Three East German men swam Berlin's Teltow Canal on September 23 after negotiating border barriers on the eastern bank. East German guards did not see them or did not fire at them. Ten East Germans by then had escaped to West Germany by swimming waterways at night within only five weeks. None were shot at.

The Government has made a strong protest to the East Germans over Monday's shooting and Herr Heinrich Widenel, the West German Minister for Inter-German Relations, yesterday described the shooting as "murder at the Wall".

Five die in attack on oil rig

Abu Dhabi (Reuters) - Five oil-rig workers were killed and at least 20 injured in an attack by unidentified aircraft on Abu Dhabi's offshore Abu al-Bukhoosh oilfield in the Gulf yesterday.

Oil industry sources said two missiles hit the field's main terminal 100 miles north-west of Abu Dhabi, damaging living quarters and an oil production platform. Oil production was halted and the site evacuated. Informed sources said the total number of casualties could be as high as 50.

Robbers flee

Tokyo (AP) - Robbers hit an unarmoured car driver in the head and sprayed his face with a chemical in Tokyo on Tuesday, escaping with 330 million yen (£13 million) in Japan's biggest cash robbery.

Cocaine haul

Geneva (AP) - Police have seized a record 44lb of pure cocaine in an unclaimed suitcase arriving at Geneva airport from Peru.

Poison charge

Belgrade (Reuters) - Mr Nedra Berisa, a director of a smelting firm in southern Yugoslavia has been charged with allowing poisonous waste to pollute two local rivers.

Pastures new

Stockholm - One thousand reindeer were moved yesterday by lorry from winter pastures in the northern Swedish province of Jamtland, made radioactive by fall-out from the Chernobyl nuclear accident, 300 miles south to uncontaminated grazing.

Polish farmers revive Rural Solidarity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish farmers' protest movement, the banned Rural Solidarity, has announced its rebirth in the form of a "temporary council" which will fight for peasants' rights and, in the words of its founding statement, "try to save Poland from a food catastrophe".

The statement was signed by only three activists, including Mr Jozef Telega, the veteran activist who helped to establish Rural Solidarity in July 1981. The new "temporary council" said that it would also incorporate nine other activists who would stay anonymous to them to work in the underground.

After the Polish authorities released all political prisoners - including such leading Solidarity figures as Mr Zdzislaw Bajak - Solidarity tried to work out a way in which it could function openly as a pressure group on the Government while, at the same time, keeping alive some of the old underground structures.

They came up with the idea of "temporary councils of Solidarity" which would be established in all major Polish cities

and co-ordinate what was left of the union protest movement. So far they have been rather quiet, partly because of arguments about strategy. Communist Party sources say that temporary Solidarity councils have tried to register themselves officially in at least 10 Warsaw provinces, presenting their statutes and aims to the local authorities.

Usually the boards include former members of the underground opposition and are regarded with suspicion by the authorities, who have yet to register any of the councils. The current debate in the Solidarity opposition is how far one should co-operate with the authorities in achieving desirable goals, such as an improvement in consumer supplies or the reduction of pollution, or more obviously political ambitions like union rights. The issue has been crystallized in the current attempts by the Government to establish social consultative councils which would put officials and noncommunist intellectuals together at the same negotiating table.

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SAVE £120

ZOOM OUTFIT

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The MI5 spy book hearing in Australia

Whitehall accused of inconsistency

From Stephen Taylor
Sydney

Whitehall's policy of re-training confidential informants is inconsistent, the New South Wales Supreme Court was told yesterday.

Mr Malcolm Turnbull, counsel for Mr Peter Wright, tendered a number of books and exhibits in support of this contention. He argued that information in *The Ties That Bind*, a book published last year without hindrance from the British Government, was in topicality and by nature far more sensitive than anything in the Wright book which the Government is seeking to suppress.

Mr Turnbull said the book contained "eye-glazing detail" of the British intelligence services, including recent heads, structures, addresses and information on sabotage and demolition schools.

When Mr Turnbull put this to Sir Robert Armstrong, in his fifth day under cross-examination, the Cabinet Secretary said he had not sought *The Ties That Bind* and could not compare the two books. "I told of its contents, he said: 'I would certainly regret the

publication of British information in such a book." He agreed, however, that nothing had been done to stop it.

Mr Turnbull said that, although the British Government would still not officially confirm the existence of MI6, the book, *The Ties That Bind*, gave the organization's headquarters at 100 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1.

The book, by Jeffrey Richardson, an American, and Desmond Ball, an Australian, also listed similarly detailed information on the security services of the United States, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, including signals intelligence, code-names and detailed technical information, he added.

Another book, *Conspiracy of Silence*, published in Britain last week, contained many direct quotations from members of the security services, Mr Turnbull said.

Sir Robert replied that those involved had been reminded of their duty of confidentiality. Asked why the Government had not sought to restrain publication, he added: "The view was taken that, though the breach of the duty of confidentiality was reprehensible, the actual material was not sufficiently damaging to warrant the extreme measure of seeking an injunction."

The material was either already in the public domain or was trivial, he added.

The Wright book, on the other hand, was considered by the nature of its disclosures to go far beyond that.

In argument against the Government's contention that it had never allowed publication of writings by an "insider" from the security services, Mr Turnbull cited four examples which he said fell into this category.

They were *Clock Without Degrade*, by Sir Percy Silkin, head of MI5 in the 1950s; *The Philby Affair*, by Hugh Trevor-Roper, a wartime member of MI6; *The Cambridge Comintern*, an essay by Robert Cecil, another former MI6 officer; and *Handbook for Spies*, by Alexander Foote, who was said to be a Russian agent but was actually an MI5 man writing under a pseudonym.

Mr Turnbull also submitted a series of articles published in the *New Statesman* and *The Guardian* covering such subjects as GCHQ, phone-tapping and MI5 structure, which

Sir Robert acknowledged Whitehall had made no effort to restrain.

Faced with this volume of material to read, Mr Justice Powell remarked to Mr Turnbull: "Please remember that in 13 years, 11 months and 14 days, I reach the statutory age of judicial senility."

Nearing the end of his cross-examination of Sir Robert in open court, Mr Turnbull referred to a letter to Mrs Thatcher from Mr Jonathan Aitken MP, in January 1980, shortly after she disclosed the treachery of Anthony Blunt in the Commons.

Mr Turnbull said the letter had called for a full statement to restore public confidence in the security services, along with an announcement on a major reorganization. What consideration had been given to these suggestions?

Sir Robert: "The Prime Minister decided there should not be a statement of that kind. She made that decision and informed Mr Aitken and he accepted it."

Later Mr Turnbull asked whether, since 1979, the Government had given "serious consideration" to changing

the policy of disclosures of intelligence matters.

No, Sir Robert replied. Mr Turnbull put it to him that Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, had not sought an injunction against Mr Chapman Pincher's book, *The Trade Is Treachery*, because he had given an assurance that "there was no ongoing problem of penetration of the security services, which assurance did not agree with the opinion of his principal source, Mr Wright."

Sir Robert denied it.

Mr Turnbull: "There has been a number of matters (covered in cross-examination) where you were unable to give the court substantive answers. I have invited you to make further inquiries. Have you sought any such further information?"

Sir Robert: "I have not sought any further information."

The cross-examination of Sir Robert is due to go into closed session today after legal argument in which the British side is expected to argue that it is not obliged to produce certain documents ordered by the court on the ground that they are covered by a "public interest immunity" clause.



The Prince of Wales talking to members of the British 3rd Parachute Regiment and the Canadian Airborne Regiment in the UN buffer zone near Nicaragua yesterday.

Philippines 'close' to ceasefire agreement

From David Watts
Manila

The Philippines Government may sign a ceasefire agreement with Communist insurgents before the end of the week.

Emerging from some eight hours of negotiations with representatives of the National Democratic Front at a secret location, Mr Ramon Mitra, who is Minister of Agriculture and one of the Government's three negotiators, said there had been substantial progress.

He said finalisation of the agreement could come as early as today, but in any event he expected it to be signed before the deadline of November 30 set by President Aquino.

Mr Mitra said that additions had to be made to the pact, but the general principles were already in place for a ceasefire that would last less than the 100 days suggested by the NDF earlier this year. Once agreement was reached the cessation of hostile acts could begin in early December.

It remains to be seen, however, whether Mr Mitra's optimism is justified. Yesterday's was the third meeting which he had indicated was "a make or break" meeting. One of his fellow-negotiators said earlier in the week that there remained two sticking points.

The negotiator, Mr Teodoro Guingona, also said that the points were ones which the Manila Government could not concede.

Each time the two sides have come close to agreement in the past, some external factor has delayed the final signing. The negotiations began on August 5 and broke off at the end of September when Mr Rodolfo Fajes, chairman of the NDF's military commission and of the New People's Army, the party's military wing, was arrested.

The talks were later resumed by the NDF without the release of Mr Fajes, but broke off again last month after the murder of the labour leader, Mr Rolando Olalia. The Communists returned to the negotiating table yesterday despite the fact that no progress has been made in investigating that killing.

Asked if the removal of Defence Minister of Mr Juan Ponce Enxile, who had been advocating a tougher line against the Communists, had had any effect on the negotiations, Mr Mitra said there had been none.

The new Defence Minister, Mr Rafael Nieto, has initially welcomed the Government's stance of negotiating a ceasefire. But he is known to be private to be concerned that the communist insurgency is getting beyond the means of the poorly-equipped armed forces of the Philippines to control.

Wright says Government tried to discredit him

From Stephen Taylor
Sydney

Mr Peter Wright, the figure at the centre of the MI5 spy book trial, emerged briefly from seclusion here yesterday to counter what he said was an attempt by the British Government to discredit him through the columns of *The Times*.

Looking frail and unwell, the former MI5 mole hunter admitted receiving royalties for his collaboration with Mr Chapman Pincher on the book *The Trade Is Treachery*, but said Mr Pincher was mistaken when he told *The Times* that he had not been involved in the payments.

"I can prove, and will prove in court, this is not true," Mr Wright said.

His first public appearance so far during the court case over his own book, he said, was "selective" in that it had "selected" parts of his evidence to counter what he said was an attempt by the British Government to discredit him through the columns of *The Times*.

He was addressing a gathering at the offices of Malcolm Turnbull, his lawyer, who is issuing a similar earlier in the day.

Mr Wright, who is 70 and in ill health, read the statement in a faltering voice, apparently as a result of difficulty with reading, and would not answer questions.

The following is the statement made by Mr Peter Wright in Australia yesterday: "As you will no doubt be aware, I have been preparing for my appearance in court next week, and in particular preparing a full disclosure of the circumstances of the publication of *The Trade Is Treachery*.

However, the Government this weekend has selectively leaked parts of my evidence to the Whitehall correspondent of *The Times* in an effort to discredit me in advance. Accordingly, I have no choice but to make a public statement which will of necessity contain the information which will be part of my testimony.

In the summer of 1980, I received a letter and a first-class air ticket from Lord Rothschild inviting me to come to London to discuss the impact of the Blunt disclosures, disclosures with which I was not involved in any way. This approach came totally out of the blue.

When I arrived Lord Rothschild explained that he had recently met Mrs Thatcher, and that she was inexperienced in intelligence matters. We discussed the Hollis affair, as we had many times before. I expressed concern that the true facts of the Hollis case be

placed in front of her, and showed Lord Rothschild a paper I had begun to write on the subject. I asked him if he would be prepared to use his influence to place the document in Mrs Thatcher's hands. Lord Rothschild said this approach would not work, as Mrs Thatcher would feel obliged to refer any official approach direct to MI5. He told me that the best way to procure a proper investigation of the Hollis affair was to write a book.

He told me that the book would have to be written by someone else and he suggested Harry Pitcher. He telephoned Mr Pitcher and shortly afterwards he appeared. I had the distinct impression this meeting had been pre-arranged.



Mr Wright, an authorized but deniable operation.

I was terrified of getting into trouble. Lord Rothschild assured me it was going to be all right. He told me that he would arrange for his Swiss banking facilities to pay me half of the royalties from the book. He knew I was in financial difficulties and I was grateful for this assistance. Mr Pitcher has told *The Times* that he was not involved in these payments. I can prove, and will prove in court, this is not true.

I knew Lord Rothschild to be an intimate confidant of successive heads of British intelligence establishments. I could not conceive of him embarking on such a project without knowing it had the sanction, albeit unofficial, of the authorities. I sensed I was being drawn into an authorized, but deniable operation which would enable the Hollis affair and other MI5 scandals to be placed in the public domain as the result of an apparently inspired leak.

All I know about Lord Rothschild, and the ease with which *The Trade Is Treachery* was published, leads me to the inescapable conclusion that the powers that be approved of the book."

Wright said, he had been approached "totally out of the blue" by Lord Rothschild, who sent him a first-class air ticket "inviting me to come to London to discuss the impact of the Blunt disclosures". In this way, Mr Wright said,

he believed that he was drawn into an "authorized but deniable operation" to bring what he termed "the Hollis affair and other MI5 scandals" into the open.

When he got to London, Mr Wright said he had discussed

Churches fight Kenya Bill

From A Correspondent
Nairobi

The National Council of Kenya (NCKC) has joined the legal profession in expressing reservations about proposed amendments to the Kenyan Constitution which would remove the security of tenure enjoyed by the Attorney-General and the Controller and Auditor-General.

The Law Society of Kenya has called on Parliament to reject the Bill as being against the public interest.

Bishop Alexander Mugo, the Anglican Bishop, read a statement signed by the NCKC general secretary, Mr John Kamau, and the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya, the Rt Rev Lawi Imathiu, expressing "deep concern" about the proposals.

The Minister for Labour, Mr Peter Okondo, has defended proposed changes, saying a permanent Attorney-General was aimed at democracy, and an Auditor-General could not continue in office if he fell out of favour.

Mr Okondo said security of tenure for the Attorney-General was provided in the Constitution at Kenya's independence, because European settlers demanded it.

Police stop bid to kill Pope

From A Correspondent
Nairobi

Brisbane (Reuters) - Australian police yesterday arrested a former mental patient armed with five fire bombs who, they said, had planned to kill the Pope "because he has got too much money".

The Sydney resident, aged 24 and recently discharged from a mental hospital, told detectives he had come to Brisbane three days ago to kill the Pope.

He was arrested in the lobby of Brisbane Town Hall after being discovered during a routine security check seven hours before the Pope arrived during the second day of his week-long visit to Australia.

He was carrying a cardboard box containing five soft drink bottles each filled with a litre of petrol. They were taped together.

Police said the man told them he went to the Town Hall as part of his research for an elevated position from which to throw the petrol bombs.

A Papal spokesman declined to say if the Pope had been told about the arrest, but police said his bodyguards were informed.

The Pope was shot and severely wounded in St Peter's Square in 1981 and a Spanish priest lured at him with a bayonet in Portugal a year later.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

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The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 8.00 PM/8.30 PM
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THE ARTS

Nuclear families

"It's like putting a toe in the middle of your larder" grunted one of the protesters in *The Dump* (BBC2), a 40 Minutes special on the Lincolnshire village whose disused site is to be recycled as a nuclear rubbish dump. Every year for the next half-century, 13,000 tons of low-level radioactive waste will be buried in shallow trenches on the site, where it will remain a potential hazard to vegetables for a good 300 years.

TELEVISION

The local squire, whose family has been in residence for an even longer period of time and with no deleterious consequences, thinks this is a very bad idea. So do the visiting vicar, a sometimes met-
allurgical, and his parishioners, from the rectory ladies to the gamekeeper bobbies at the gate. One would like to think of this kind of Middle England idyll as a potent force for change which Government ignores at its peril. In fact - as this report showed but did not say - it is a potent force for conservatism, uniting the community and giving a cohesive focus to traditional values.

One could not but think that the impoverished black villagers in *Playboys 86: Back to the Frontiers* (Central) had a deal more to protest about. With malnutrition and lack of sanitation, half of all children in the black hamlets die before their fifth birthday. This programme was a lengthy and pretty thorough indictment of apartheid, light on history but heavy on the martyr mentality that sustains the lager. One African farmer whined about having to face up to landmines when his forefathers had been confronted with nothing deadlier than assegais, while another explained that "these people" (largely speaking for the blacks) would be happy if allowed to live on white beaches. The Minister for Planning spoke with heated sincerity about "the totality of development concepts" and something called "uplift". It should be noted that these people (the whites) observe substantially the same religion as the villagers of Lincolnshire.

Martin Cropper

Sun, sea, sand and savagery

THEATRE

B29
Théâtre de la Porte
St-Martin, Paris

Two American airmen forced into the roles of Robinson Crusoe and Man Friday: ram-
pant Second World War style, is the nub of *B29*, written by Alain Page, directed by Derek Goldby, starring Richard Berry and Niels Arestrup. It is best described as wide-screen theatre. The filmic qualities of this encounter of a distinctly masculine kind are, however, no real surprise: this is Page's first foray into live drama from a successful career as a novelist-cum-screen-playwright, and most recently as a film-maker with *Taxi Boy*.

Out of the darkness come the cardrums-bombarding sounds of an airborne B29 fighting for its life, losing and spinning earthwards. The blackness lifts to the gentle swish of the ocean and exotic bird-song, and the wrecked fuselage of the aircraft is discovered, nestling amongst the palm trees of a Pacific island paradise. This is captured down to the last scatter of unhusked coconuts by Jean-Marie Fievez's aplauded drawing design, realistically executed by Robert Petit with the help of the tropical-green fingers of Pierre Dederog.

Four years have passed, and the war is over, but not for the two forgotten survivors of the crashed bomber - Sergeant Sam Hunter (Arestrup) and Private Tony La Motta (Berry) - whose castaway existence has evolved into a harsh fantasy world, given shape and purpose by past realities.

They continue to act out the military routine: the daily ritual of running up a sun-bleached rag that was once the American colours, a regular scene inspection. But the real force behind their existence is Hunter's enforcement and La Motta's apparent concurrence in maintaining the military pecking-order. Hunter progressively elevates himself to the rank of General and La Motta to that of Commander. Nevertheless, at base, their relationship is always that of master and slave.

Before the war La Motta was a jazz musician and his hornier memories are easy plunder for the sexually deprived Hunter. La Motta intuitively exploits this, donning with equal ease the personality of a limp-wristed hand-dresser or a slyly-bipped female dancer. Inevitably, Hunter is led towards making real sexual advances, which are forcibly rebuffed. The master/slave syndrome begins to crack open.

Page's not altogether original dialogue is often superfluous to the performers' own remarkable physical interpretation of the characters, aided by a second wave of cinema realism with close-up deep, all-over sustains under ultraviolet lamps, grizzled, unshaven chins, matted hair, tattered but accurate uniforms, US airmen circa 1940 for the use of.

However, the convincing qualities of Arestrup's fat-cat, vicious, slow-thinking, supercilious Hunter, and Berry's contrasting dark, lean, alley-cat, subversively cunning La Motta go far beyond facial stoniness and a spell under a sun-lamp. They are the product of a near perfect coordination between two exceptional actors and a director who knows exactly what he wants, and how to get it.

B29 is the British-born Goldby's first Paris production. During the past 10 years he has been closely involved in the Belgian theatre, as well as continuing to work regularly in the UK, USA and Canada. This international patina shows itself to some advantage in his outspoken treatment of *B29*. In complete contrast to the liberated images on French television and cinema screens, in the theatre there still lingers an outmoded and inhibiting decorum, particularly in the private sector, which all too often results in emasculation. Page's cinema experience ignores this and Goldby's direction keeps the actors well squared, without toning them into a Broadway pastiche.

The big-screen imagery has not gone unnoticed: an American company has already shown an interest in turning *B29* into a film.

Diane Hill



Pulling rank: Niels Arestrup and Richard Berry as the forgotten castaways in *B29*.

Bringing up baby

Fathers
Tower,
Canonbury

Although the English theatre has been buzzing with political drama for the past 15 years there have been surprisingly few plays on specific public issues, and fewer still with any concrete proposals for reform.

Playwrights may consider themselves above this journalistic task, or leave it to television. But the "blue book" tradition proves still very much alive in this piece by Charles Langley. The subject (discussed by Barbara Ansell in *The Times* on November 19) is that of the rights of the unmarried father to his offspring if the mother opts for adoption, single parenthood, or abortion.

Fathers follows through a case from the breakdown of a partnership to a settle-

ment out of court. After four years with Tim, the pregnant Kate ducks out of the approaching marriage and decides to have her child adopted. To her and everyone else's amazement, Tim digs in his heels and fights for custody. As the only child of a wealthy factory-owner, he knows what it is like to grow up in a house where Daddy is always busy, and is determined not to hand on the damage to the next generation. At once he finds himself in a labyrinth of legal discrimination and prejudice, where social workers, feminists and his own family share the same incredulity at the sight of a man who would rather bring up a child than go out and make money.

From the highly-stylated treatment of Tim's antagonists, I am not persuaded that Mr Langley knows very much about militant feminists or captains of industry. But there is no disputing the authority

and passion he brings to the central issue, both in sorting out the legal inequities, and in pinning down the thought-asphyxiating clichés that surround the subject.

The piece is written in solid, serviceable dialogue, with comic relief tacked on like a fretwork frame round a family photo. But the narrative gets a clean run, and in the final duel everything superfluous is burnt away in the intense heat of feeling.

There is some excellent support playing (from Tom Tillyer and Marcus Toubnin-Rothe), and a main partnership of strengthening interest from Bob Hutt and Maria Davies.

Irving Wardle

David Thacker's production of *Chaos*, acclaimed by Irving Wardle at its Young Vic opening last month, has now transferred to Wyndham's Theatre.

Russia's voice raised in joy

CONCERTS

Arkhipova/Ilya
Wigmore Hall/
Radio 3

With the voice of Mother Russia captive within the Wigmore Hall, one wanted the bedtime stories to go on and on into the night. As it was, Irina Arkhipova was being broadcast live as part of the BBC's Russian Season, so she had to stop just at the point at which, having been spoiled by Mussorgsky's "Gopak" and Rachmaninov's "Do not weep for me", one longed to whine for still more.

Any London recital by Arkhipova is a landmark in the singing year. This one will be particularly memorable because of the repertoire which the BBC's season invited: rarely performed and revelatory late-nineteenth and twentieth-century works by Medtner and Taneyev, Shapov and Sviridov. What is more, in Irina Ilya, from the Moscow Conservatoire, Arkhipova has a pianist not only her equal in technical and imaginative virtuosity, but also equal to the voracious appetite of Medtner's accompaniments.

Arkhipova, unbelievably, has had more than 60 years to know and nurture her voice: seldom does one hear the instrument and the mind be-



Glowing: Irina Arkhipova

hind it in such intensely live accord. Listening to her scaling of Taneyev's sinister "Minuet" - a dance of death with a view to the guillotine - or following the entire range of the mezzo voice as it tracks the bare octaves of Sviridov's "Silhouette" was an experience comparable to hearing Shakespeare read by the finest of actors: proportion and pitch, weight and measure, all vibrantly alive in the joy of recreation.

We were even to hear of a sample of this, too: the voice rose from speech into song and back again in Sviridov's "Willow Song" from his incidental music to *Othello*. Sviridov, a pupil of Shostakovich, was happily presented at his most ideologically unfettered in two more pieces: a delightful Siberian folk-song, and a setting of Pushkin's "Winter Road".

Hilary Finch

**Philharmonia/
Haitink**
Festival Hall

It would be ironic if Mikhail Pletnev's reputation in the West soared after this impressive performance of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. For the young Soviet pianist was playing only because his erstwhile compatriot, Vladimir Ashkenazy, had withdrawn for solid capitalist reasons.

Pletnev has not played in Britain or America since shortly after winning the 1978 Tchaikovsky Competition. One can understand the Russians' concern that he should not achieve too low a foreign sell. He has a superb technique by any standards, presenting a glittering cascade of steel-toned figuration in the early unaccompanied variation, taking a refreshingly unsentimental view of the harsh sections, and tackling the ferocious octave

rings with insouciant speed and accuracy.

How deep does his musicianship run? That question will have to be answered another day, for here I found my ear constantly being drawn away from his ideas and towards Bernard Haitink's masterly delineation of the orchestral writing. Haitink revealed some remarkable inner details that usually lie obscured (particularly in the early variations), and he maintained a razor-sharp ensemble at considerable pace. The general effect was very but exhilarating.

The performance of Bruckner's Fourth Symphony was a much more spacious affair, for Haitink is both patient and courageous enough to seek long-term rewards, not to fiddle about with the speeds of second subjects. He was rewarded with some vintage Philharmonia playing, particularly from the principal horn Richard Watkins.

Richard Morrison

**Holliger/
Northern
Sinfonia/Pay**
Huddersfield
Polytechnic

Monday in Huddersfield was predominantly Heinz Holliger's day. In the lunchtime concert, we heard three of his more intimate compositions, two of them supremely idiomatic studies for solo instruments not his own, while later he gave a marvellous performance of a work by John Casken with the Northern Sinfonia.

But first of all, Jean Sulem attacked the ferociously unrelenting *Tremolo* for violin (1981) like a man possessed, achieving the intended multi-layered, simultaneously fast and slow effect quite brilliantly. In fact one was tempted to suspect that technical considerations motivated this work more than expressive ones. Not so in *(l'air)* for solo flute (1978/83), one of a series of

pieces composed during the last decade in which Holliger attempts to reflect the strangely timeless late verse of Hölderlin.

Here the composer requires the protagonist to tackle any number of new techniques. Few flautists other than Aurèle Nicolet could have negotiated such a plethora of harmonics, whistlings, sharp intakes of breath, and even a basso rasperio with such exactitude, while at the same time achieving an impression of sustained line. The result is actually a delight, as in a rather different manner is Holliger's Trio for oboe, viola and harp (1966), justly one of his most celebrated works.

The Casken piece in the Northern Sinfonia's evening concert, which Antony Pay conducted, was the ingenious, haunting *Musique* for oboe solo, two horns and strings of 1982, a five-movement structure full of shadowy metamorphoses and commentaries which nevertheless bears itself with a classical elegance.

Stephen Pettitt

LONDON DEBUTS

Dimitri Salachukowski, who lives and trained in London, tackled the technical problems of Rachmaninov's Second Sonata like a seasoned virtuoso. Every detail of the piece's darkly virtuosic score came off with immaculate precision. He is a cultured player, demonstrating a natural affinity with the Russian Romantic repertoire, but to develop further he must work at projecting the emotional content of the music to a greater degree.

I could not make much sense out of the American pianist Michael Sellers's recital. His Mozart was halfhearted, his Chopin metrically messy. But Leo Ornstein's *Three Moods* of 1914 confirmed that for Sellers the sonority of the instrument is paramount, and he allows this priority to override all other considerations.

The Linder Duo consists of the baritone Clive Harre and his pianist partner Brian Parnell. Harre's voice, at its best, is capable of an effective and expressive legato, but he is predominantly a rather effortful singer, whose light timbre tends to sound raspy.

James Methuen-Campbell

The French film director Bertrand Tavernier never treads the same road twice. His new film, *Round Midnight*, recalls the days when emigré jazzmen were a cult in Paris. Interview by John Preston

The cinema has never had much time for jazz. Hollywood, in particular, has tended to regard jazzmen with grave suspicion, partly because they were inclined to be black, and partly because the unpredictability of jazz was held by some to be a fundamental oddity of the cinema. In fact it was, as film director Bertrand Tavernier is quick to point out, his fellow countryman Louis Malle who asked Miles Davis to write his first film score for *Ascenseur pour l'échafaud* in 1958. And now Tavernier is out to carry on Malle's good work in *Round Midnight*, which opens at the



Cautious, hand signals: Bertrand Tavernier has gone for diversity in a 12-year career in features

Warner West End at the end of the week.

Set primarily in Paris in the late Fifties, the film follows the mixed fortunes of an elderly black American saxophonist as he struggles to stay off the drink and out of the financial clutches of various avaricious and outstandingly only impresarios. Based on a loose amalgam of Bud Powell and Lester Young, the character is played by veteran jazzman Dexter Gordon.

Tavernier himself, despite his canny yellow pullover, looks as if he has just stepped out of a canvas by Daumier. A large man with a long nose and an assortment of chins, his hunched exterior is belied by a manner which is earnest, expensive and comes complete, with a full range of frenzied hand signals.

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It was while innocing in Paris more than two years ago with Martin Scorsese and the producer Irwin Winkler that the idea for *Round Midnight* took serious shape. "Ever since I was a film critic I have been intrigued why jazz was used so little in the movies," Tavernier says. "Why was it that someone like Duke Ellington only scored two films? Be-bop particularly fascinated me. I've always regarded be-bop musicians as the real geniuses of American music."

"I was also fascinated by the fact that be-bop was the only music that has never been bastardized or tampered with. Somehow it is impossible to interfere with it because it is such free music. I wanted to reflect that spirit in the structure of the film: to build it up like a musical piece. There is no intricate plot but a freedom structure with time lapses, flash forwards and things happening that don't appear to be related to each other."

Tavernier decided early on that he wanted a musician to play the lead role rather than an actor, and as soon as he saw Dexter Gordon shambling into his New York hotel room the idea he had found his man - "It is absolutely incredible, he even walks be-bop with a three-beat rhythm". At the same time, Tavernier's plans to make both the film's main characters musicians immediately went by the board. "I realized that musicians only really communicate properly when they are playing music. When you ask Dexter a question, sometimes you have to wait for up to five minutes for an answer."

Working with Gordon was, Tavernier concedes, a hazard, as well as slow business. "You know," he says in awestruck tones, "the percentage of alcohol in his blood can be quite astounding." But Gordon turned in a performance that drew extensive plaudits from the American critics and may well do the same from the British ones later this week.

Midway through the interview a messenger comes in bearing a large fat package. Tavernier tears it open and crow excitedly when he sees it contains a copy of Michael Powell's recently published autobiography. "Michael Powell, I love him," he says, repeating it three times to dispel any doubts. "I am trying to do in my films what Powell and Pressburger did, to let the emotions carry the plot. I think a lot of my work recently has been a reaction against the current vogue in American movies where they are selling emotion instead of exploring it. In *Round Midnight* I wanted to go with the emotion the whole time, so that it almost became the plot as well as dictating the pace and the rhythm of the film."

In the 12 years since he started directing feature films, Tavernier has turned out a determinedly eclectic body of work, from his admirably restrained account of a school-teacher on the verge of cracking up in *Une Semaine de vacances*, to the sci-fi excesses of his other English language film to date, *Deathwatch*. "I have this terrible fear of repeating myself," he says. "For me directing movies is like exploring unknown territory: I like to explore a lot and

communicate to the audience what I have been discovering. The people I really admire are the ones who extend themselves the whole time and are not afraid of the consequences." Tavernier gazes at the Powell book and taps it sharply with his index finger. "Like you-know-who."

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The CAP the world won't wear



Part 3: No winners in the subsidies war

policies are causing everything from anger to misery and starvation to over-supply, as this third report on the state of the CAP shows

If all the victims of the Common Agricultural Policy lived in Europe, it would at least be possible to draw a line around the problem. But the CAP is a blight which knows no borders, a malaise which has infected the rice paddies of Thailand, the beef herds of Argentina, the industrial and agricultural heartlands of America.

It has either caused, or significantly contributed to, a situation where Third World farmers, once unable to produce enough, are now unable to sell what they do produce because of competition from cheap imports; where President Reagan, once the high priest of free trade, now finds himself forced to put up barriers against Europe; where in Australia and New Zealand, whose farmers once benefited from artificially-high pricing in Europe, often have to go bankrupt only because their debts are so big that the banks cannot afford to foreclose on them. There is even an argument that the CAP is indirectly adding to child prostitution in Thailand.

Hopes of change are hedged about with uncertainties and contradictions. All branches of the EEC's giant bureaucratic tree are agreed that the problem is a worldwide one; and that perception is shared in Washington.

So the solution lies with the GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Some promising signals have come out of the latest GATT round, which began in Uruguay in September with an American and EEC commitment to review their extensive use of farm subsidies.

But does this amount to more than mere rhetoric? Although the GATT declaration called on member countries to discuss all subsidies, direct and indirect, Mr Willy de Clerq, the EEC's external affairs minister, says that the "aims and fundamental mechanisms of the CAP cannot be called into question" — a statement apparently designed to placate the French which also served to baffle the Americans.

US officials say the world problem cannot be resolved until there is bilateral agreement between Washington and Brussels and that in turn cannot happen until Europe puts its CAP house in order.

Hopes of a US-EEC agreement look slim while claim and counter-claim are the main commodities

Adverse effects of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy have spread far across the world. From Buenos Aires to Sydney, from Washington to Bangkok, EEC farm

crossing the Atlantic. And although the US has in the past couple of years become as much of a transgressor as Europe on farm support — Washington is expected to exceed \$35 billion this year against about \$25 billion in the EEC — Europe is still seen as the main villain.

Uruguay's President Sanginetti said after the GATT meeting that "the United States has recently passed some bad policies but Europe is our historical problem."

Washington's approach to the EEC since the GATT round opened has been conciliatory, but Daniel Amstutz, US under-secretary for Agriculture, said in Brussels recently that avoiding a breakdown of the GATT round would be a "monumental challenge".

The EEC is especially upset about the US "export enhancement programme", basically a subsidy, which costs Washington \$300 million a year. But American officials claim that "export restitutions" cost the EEC that amount every three weeks.

The US says the EEC is "deliberately discouraging" Third World imports, while Europe counter-claims that it spends \$40 billion on food imports a year, 80 per cent of it at zero tariffs.

While the buck is passed back and forth, in countries like Argentina the effects of subsidies are plain to see. "In the war between the EEC and Reagan," said one government official, "we are the losers. We have no possibility of competing because we can't afford to subsidise."

In 1970, Europe bought 48 per cent of all Argentina's exports; by 1984, the figure was down to 24 per cent. EEC subsidies have cost Argentina between \$600 million and \$1 billion in the last two years, according to the government, which also says that EEC subsidies have helped Europe cut heavily into Argentina's traditional third-country markets, including the Soviet Union, Egypt and Israel.

Last year Argentina exported only one third of the meat it sold at the end of the 1970s. The final irony is that, with its farmers finding beef increasingly uneconomic to produce, the government may soon have to import it to satisfy domestic demand in a coal-to-Newcastle operation.

There are fears that the Commu-



What price the future? this Zimbabwean can't compete with Europe

Stunted growth

Black Africa has a high profile in Britain, thanks mainly to Band Aid spectacles on behalf of the famine-stricken regions. But there is much more to Africa's food problems than a mere lack of rain.

Zimbabwe, for example, with a two million tonne maize stockpile, has the potential to feed not only itself but many other African countries at a fraction of the total production, storage and transport costs which Europe incurs in getting its products to the famine areas.

But the Common Agricultural Policy, combined with the vast stockpile of farm products amassed by the United States, poses a greater menace than Africa's droughts to Zimbabwe's fertile and well-managed acres. Together they threaten to push 4,200 export-orientated commercial farmers — mainly whites — into bankruptcy, while nearly a million emergent, black peasant farmers could be thrown back on to primitive subsistence agriculture.

With the accession of the Mediterranean countries to the EEC, even tobacco — the crop which white large-scale farmers felt was most secure — risks taking a cruel hammering on world markets. There are fears that the Commu-

nity might encourage the mass production of low-grade leaf which would then be dumped on world markets far below cost.

The director of Zimbabwe's Commercial Farmers Union, David Hasluck, says: "The French, in particular, hold the view that as long as there is a food deficiency in Africa, the dumping of European food surpluses can be justified on humanitarian grounds", he says.

Botswana is one of 63 countries which get special EEC help — Brussels guarantees to buy 18,916 tonnes of Botswana beef a year. Botswana's problem is overgenerosity: cattle farmers have increased their grazing land to such an extent that it is encroaching on areas frequented by wild animals.

The country's entire ecology is threatened if EEC "help" continues at its present level, although Botswana's cattle farmers suspect that the EEC is now using the ecology argument to try to restrict beef imports because of the urgent need to reduce the size of the beef "mountain".

Morocco regards itself as the African country most affected by the CAP now that Spain and Portugal have joined the Common Market. Aside from phosphates, agricultural exports are Morocco's chief revenue earner and more than half of these are absorbed by the EEC.

Tied up and let down

Tapoca is a name to invoke terrible memories of school dinners. But it also serves as an object lesson on the consequences of exposing a primitive agricultural people to the sophisticated pressures of the global food game.

Twenty years ago Europe rediscovered tapoca. German and Dutch pig and cattle farmers found that, made into pellets and mixed with soya and oil, tapoca — or cassava — became a cheap animal feedstuff. And north-east Thailand, where little else would grow, was the place to get it.

Dr Eadyman Wilkison, the EEC's Chief of Affairs for south-east Asia, recalls what happened: "You could see 10,000 trucks tearing up the roads, day and night; like ants, they were loaded down going one way, like ants, they were scuttling for another load once they were empty. At Bangkok's main port dozens, hundreds, of people were drowned in the mad scramble to manhandle loads from lighters to ships bound for Europe. I recall one huge shed with about 300 clerks, heads down all scribbling export orders, watched over by a manager up on a dais."

The benefits to Thailand from tapoca were huge — an income of around \$900 million (compared with \$1.4 billion for the traditional crop, rice). More important, this income was directed at the poorest region of the country, an area most sensitive to infiltration from its communist neighbours.

It was good for everyone — except the French. For every tonne of cassava that landed at Rotterdam for EEC consumption, one more tonne of French barley went unsold. Their market was devastated. In 1962, with a little help

Money: flood and drought

India is home to perhaps the best known offshoot of the CAP, Operation Flood, which uses part of the huge surplus of milk products that the CAP generates in Europe.

In the 15 years or so that it has been supported by the EEC, Operation Flood has received more than \$500m of skimmed milk powder and butter oil.

The aim has been to increase the supply of milk and to raise its price. Thus the standard of nutrition of the population is raised while the incomes of the rural poor are increased.

Supporters say Operation Flood has been so successful that other Third World countries want to develop similar schemes. But critics, who are numerous, maintain that the system simply gets rid of Europe's surpluses.



Root of the trouble farmer Noi Petari, a distant victim of Brussels

from the Italians and a lot of untwisting of other partners, the French managed to persuade the EEC to impose quotas, limiting Thai exports to an average five million tonnes per year (from a peak of nearly nine million).

Professor Amma Sinarwala, executive director of the Thai Agricultural and Rural Development programme, is the nation's chief opponent of the quota. Yet there were people in Bangkok, said Prof Amma, who would insist that 10 million Thai face starvation;

that Thai farmers sell their children to slave off debt.

"Most of Bangkok's slums are filled with people from the north east, that has always been so. Certainly many children from those areas are up in brothels."

But this debate cannot be conducted on that moral plane. The moral element in this argument is why should Brussels belly a small nation like ours when they are afraid to tackle the superpowers on their contribution to the cereal surplus; why Thailand's tapoca, not America's citrus pulp?

Noi Petari is a 35-year-old farmer in Samut Chaburi, 100 miles from Bangkok. "We were very poor 20 years ago. Then tapoca brought good years. For the first time there was money for food and a little more. We made our houses stronger. Clothes from the village for my children. All seven could go to school. Books. Two bicycles to take them. We don't have TV, but we have radio, and it was the radio that told us tapoca had become a bad crop. Now we are getting only 8.9 baht (24 p) per kilo; once it was 4.50 baht. I don't know where Brussels is exactly. I don't understand why they tell me to grow mango or cashewnuts. Such things take years to give good crop. Meanwhile how do we eat?"

Professor Amma said he was hopeful in at least one respect: "So far we have been able to keep government out of decisions. We have to deal with that indolent state of mind known as Brusselsitis, but only at one end."

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In January last year, Bill Whittingham and his wife Eileen arrived at the tiny French village of Sinoerre to resume a life in farming that had begun 1,000 miles away in the bleak hills of Yorkshire's West Riding. Their new home was a decrepit farmhouse, but they did it up and that autumn Whittingham, aged 50, sowed the first cereal crops on his 70 acres.

France is the most important agricultural producer in the EEC, and one of the main beneficiaries of farm subsidies. Individual farmers, nevertheless, do not always feel they have fared so well, and many are now facing serious difficulties. But Whittingham was convinced that no other government in the EEC looks after its farmers like the French. After working 100 dairy acres in Yorkshire 16 hours a day, seven days a week for 17 years, he spent almost a decade with the NFU seeing both sides of the industry. "Anyone could see that farming in Britain was getting harder every year," he says.

In France he found quality agricultural land at half the



Found in France: Bill Whittingham, happy on richer soil

price, and a range of inducements, from start-up grants of up to £20,000 to subsidised credit for buying land, housing and machinery.

The greatest advantage, though, is the comprehensive back-up French farmers receive from the co-operatives to which the vast majority belong. From marketing crops and providing technical services and advice the co-operatives work to improve their members' lot.

"The French system functions excellently at every level," Whittingham observes. "With almost 20 per cent of the population involved in agriculture, we obviously have great political clout and the co-op leadership understands how to use it."

It is this ability to work the corridors of power, Whittingham considers, that gives French farmers their apparent edge in the dog-fight to make the most of the CAP.

Losers on the zigzag

West German farmers regard themselves, with some justification, as the losers in the Community.

West Germany's farms, mostly small family operations, have almost halved from 1,385,300 in 1960 to 720,800 in 1985, but farmers' incomes are still at 1974 levels, averaging £8,500 a year.

"German farmers have no clear perspective of the way

ahead because of Brussels' zigzag course on agricultural policies," says Dr Walter Florian, State Agriculture Secretary.

West Germany's government last May agreed a national financial first aid programme for farmers based on tax-free subsidies to help them pay their social security contributions, plus grants to those in depressed areas. But Bonn, for years the largest net contributor to the EEC budget, wants more done towards cutting over-production.

Times reporting team: John Young, Richard Owen, Brian James, Michael Hartock, Diana Giddes, Susan MacDonald, Michael Hamlyn, Eduardo Cuo, Stephen Taylor, Richard Long, Philip Jacobson, and John England

TOMORROW

How science is

making the

mountains grow

The list goes on

Outside the big league, many other products get CAP support, including:

- Barley, rye and maize: A "target" price is fixed, and imports are subject to a variable levy representing the target price and the generally much lower world price.
- Milk products: Seventy-five per cent of milk produced in the EEC goes into dairy products, resulting in ever-accelerating intervention stocks of butter and skimmed milk powder.
- Pigmeat: Intervention price is deliberately set too low because of the ease with which producers can increase output. Levy is applied to any supplies imported below an agreed "reference" price, and financial aid is available to take meat off the market.
- Eggs and poultrymeat: Im-

ports from outside the Community are subject to price controls. No internal market support.

- Sugar: A complicated quota system is applied to control beet production and to ensure a market for Third World cane producers. But farmers still overproduce.
- Oils and oilseeds: No levies on imports of vegetable oils, but large subsidies to processors to persuade them to use local oilseed rape, sunflowers and soya.
- Olive oil: Imports subject to levies, and EEC growers receive subsidies.
- Fruit and vegetables: Imports subject to duties if prices fall below agreed level.
- Hops: Grants are available for the establishment of producer organizations and to encourage growers to switch to higher quality varieties.

Binging Sixties

Don't miss our current series of pull-out supplements on the great British cars of the '60s. This week: Lotus Cortina, Rover 2000 and Triumph Spitfire—original road tests and assessments of the cars as current classics.

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

'Feminism has been hijacked, but it is not lost; common sense is a great influence and mainstream women are ready to reclaim the movement'

About a month ago a friend sent me a copy of *Private Eye's* anthology of "Women's" columns that exposes "loopy feminist nonsense." Many of the entries were hilarious, of course, but I was especially taken with an advertisement for a design competition for women's posters. "Young women under 21," it read, "are invited to design a poster depicting themselves and their lives in a non-stereotyped and positive way, in a competition being organised by the See Red Women's Workshop."

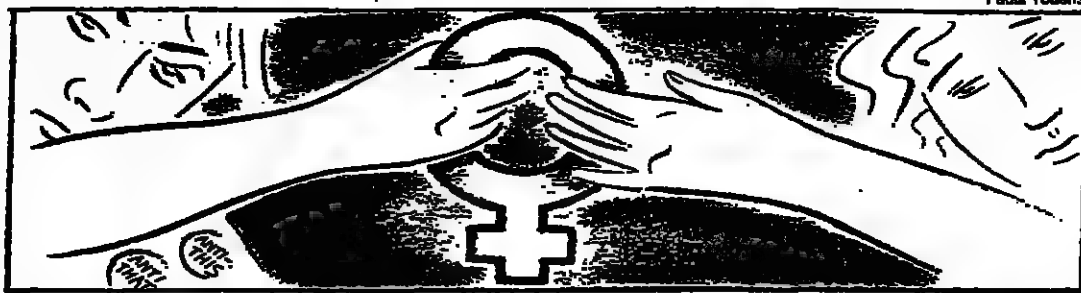
Entries are particularly welcome from young women who are Black, Jewish, Lesbian, have disabilities, are mothers, unemployed or live in Scotland, Ireland or Wales. There will be no overall winner of the competition.

That particular advertisement seemed to me to sum up every aspect of the loopy wing of feminism, from its gender confusion to its egalitarian muddle. I wanted to enter very much, but try as I might, I couldn't think of a single one of my acquaintances who would fill more than three of the categories. Of course, one gets a bit squeamish about asking even good friends if they are both lesbian and from Wales.

Like a lot of women of my age (mid-40s) and class (middleish-to-vague) I have an ambivalent relationship with feminism. After all, those of us who have been out in the work place for 20 years or so cannot possibly deny that at times the arrangement of our reproductive organs has been an impediment to better wages and advancement. I remember when I worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation some 20 years ago and was assigned the job of training a new male employee in the finer points of film production.

He was paid 30 dollars a week more than me. "But, Barbara," said the executive producer when I complained, "Keith has a wife and family to support." I suppose there was some logic to the producer's remarks. Twenty years ago, the law demanded that Keith support his wife and family at penalty of jail. On the other hand, if I wish to sit in bed, eat chocolates all day, let my husband wash the children and pay for my sweets on top of it, it was perfectly all right as far as the law was concerned.

In that sense, Keith did have more responsibilities than I and perhaps it was right that the workplace recognised this inequality before the law and paid him more. Today the law has changed



and men and women are supposed to share responsibilities and the marketplace is supposed to treat us all equally. It doesn't quite do that yet, still — in spite of the difficulties women do encounter — I have never thought them to be the result of a male conspiracy. Society, it seemed to me, arranged itself in the best way to guarantee its survival.

In the pre-technological age, this meant that men went out and did the heavy labour. Women stayed home to have children simply because the high rate of infant mortality did force us to spend a great deal of time breeding and mourning and breeding again. All of this changed, of course, when technology freed women from the high risks of childbirth and at the same time allowed men and women to perform similar tasks regardless of their differences.

Without these technological changes feminism could never have come into being. But having said that, I'm very pleased the women's movement developed. I happen to be a blithely shade of magenta when male co-workers call me "dear." I didn't need feminism to help me cope with that, of course, but I think it very unlikely that I would have been appointed editor of a Canadian daily newspaper if the *Zeitgeist* of the time hadn't been affected by feminism. What feminism did was help speed up changes of attitude in the workplace. And, insofar as feminism coincided with the general principles of a rational and liberal society in which individuals should be treated on their own merits irrespective of race, religion or gender, feminism has been an unqualified good.

But something went wrong with

feminism. It started in the 1970s when the ambitions of the women's movement were translated into such pieces of legislation as the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts. I think we made one fundamental error that went against the thrust of a liberal democratic society: we confused legal discrimination with individual rights to discriminate.

The law, of course, should never discriminate. But that always seemed a separate thing from passing laws that removed an individual's right to discriminate in favour of a man or woman. Remove that and I think you remove the right of people to arrange their own private lives or businesses.

At the same time, feminism went after much more than equality. It seemed to want special privileges like time off to have

babies while their job was conveniently held. I can't blame women for having such ambitions, but no matter how much I sympathize with people's private goals, I have never thought they should be legislated. At best you work for change.

The real watershed for feminism came when it was hijacked from the mainstream by three groups. Generally speaking, those groups included the Marxist-Leninist fringe who often latch on to any legitimate grievance for their own purposes; the man-hating fringe group of women who seem to have a psychological problem with the gender to which they belong; and the mindless egalitarians of our day who simply cannot, in the work place, see the difference between such concepts as equality and statistical parity. Those groups took the women's movement into the barmy fringe world in which the tabloids delight.

That is the world where, for example, Brent council will ban tea-dance posters because they show a man and a woman trotting in a relentlessly heterosexual clench which is considered upsetting to homosexuals; or the world of local town halls like Bradford which became gender-free zones banning words such as "housewife" and "manpower". It

is the anti-heterosexual world of the Inner-London Educational Authority, with its banning of books like Tom Sawyer and its promotion of such books as *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin*, in which the homosexual family is actively promoted as an alternative lifestyle. It is a world in which if there are 55 per cent women in the labour force, it is, *ipso facto*, a sign of unfairness if there are only 5 per cent female train drivers.

But though the movement has been hijacked, I don't believe it is lost. British common sense is a great steadying influence. Mainstream women are, it seems to me, ready to move back and reclaim feminism. All that is necessary is that when any course of action is proposed in the name of feminism, it be tested against two principles: is it in conflict with the normal principles of liberalism or of commonsense?

These two principles would, for example, eliminate the radicalism of book banning and the nonsense that there is no difference between the two genders. With those ordering principles in mind, the women's movement could easily get back on the rails again.

Barbara Amiel

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Presents of mind

Both salt and crystallised ginger may make perfectly pleasant presents — but lastingly more mental Christmas gifts for the elderly and disabled can be found in the *Products For Home Health Care* catalogue, which specialises in ingenious implements designed to make life run more smoothly for the handicapped and the old. Footwarmers, toothpaste tube squeezers, one-handed boiled egg cutters, needle-threaders — there are hundreds of gadgets in the catalogue, available by post from Nottingham Rehab Ltd, 17 Ladbroke Hill Road, Melton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6HD tel: (0602) 235190.

Quote me...



"Christmas is like pregnancy... you forget what it was like last time." — Jilly Cooper, author.

Play it safe

The launch of Esther Rantzen's *Childline* highlighted the plight of parents and teachers in making children understand the importance of saying 'no' to strangers. *Keeping Safe* by Michele Elliot (Bedford Square Press, £2.95) is packed with advice on tackling the subject, whether with toddlers or teenagers. It is available in bookshops or by post (£3.32 inc p & p) from Harper and Row Distribution, Kingston Road, Plymouth PL6 7TZ.

Russian rose

Even the imagination of Barbara Cartland would be hard-pressed to conjure a tale as romantic as Eugenie Fraser's fascinating chronicle of her Russian grandfather, *The House By The River* (Corgi, £3.95). Fraser, now in her nineties, fled to Scotland in 1920 as Russia faced devastation following the Revolution. It may read like romantic fiction — but candid observations of her illustrious family provide a fascinating insight into a privileged childhood.

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Sister Superior

Tracing the path to long lost parents

Ariel Bruce is unusual, even unique: she is a professional searcher and tracer, tracking down the parents of children who have been adopted or taken into care and who wish, as adults, to regain their roots. She also advises — and, when necessary, consoles — her clients during a process of family rediscovery that is "90 per cent happy, and 10 per cent just the reverse."

Bruce's experiences show that a widespread need exists for her special services, despite provision for such family reunions under the 1975 Children Act. It all began with an encounter three years ago with James, an odd job man of 18 who had wanted to find his mother since early childhood.

Since then she has enabled about 70 "children", some now in middle-age, to meet their "natural" or "birth" parents, often for the first time since infancy.

"If the Act worked as it was meant to, I'd be superfluous," says Bruce, a 34-year-old qualified social worker from Weybridge in Surrey. "And if it could be employed within the statutory services to do an identical job I'd jump at it. It would mean the system was functioning properly."

It took James's experience to teach her that "many of the best intentions behind the 1975 Children Act have been thwarted. And that's where I came in."

Her first faltering steps in family tracing were undertaken with extreme reluctance. "James was doing jobs

The appliance of social science is being used to reunite parents with children — David Leitch finds it's big business

around the house and then, out of the blue, he said he was adopted. Would I help with the records so he could find his mum? I said no automatically — and I kept saying no."

Her negative response, Bruce now admits, "was because I held the stereotyped view of someone who hadn't thought it out. I felt he was too young, only 18. I didn't want the personal responsibility, and I felt he shouldn't be encouraged."

However, James's determination proved stronger than Bruce's reluctance. "When he asked me how he should set about it I made enquiries. The first step was the birth register at St Catherine's House in London."

It was soon clear that James did not possess the skills to pursue the project alone and Bruce decided that she had no right to deny him any help she could offer.

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largely by word of mouth, though in time she advertised in a newspaper. From the start she found the research enthralling — "like solving a detective story". There was a fascinated infiltration into the arcane world of genealogists. Bruce was astounded to discover, for example, a harassed band of specialists who devote themselves to winking out (for a fat percentage) vanished next-of-kin — the unknown beneficiaries from unclaimed testates.

She was able to learn from the *Dickensian* master. "Wills are often invaluable indicators," she says, "though only among the middle-classes. The poor, for obvious reasons, usually die intestate."

Unlike James, most clients have been middle-aged and well educated. They include teachers, psychotherapists, a farmer, an insurance executive and social workers. And there are many more women than men.

The work is detailed and time-consuming. "One case took 18 months but, because I've developed an eye for the right name, I did one recently in 24 hours flat."

"People need someone sympathetic but cool, and matter-of-fact," she believes. "A lady said recently that I was the first person who made her feel a wish to find her birth mother after 30 years was entirely normal. After all, it is, isn't it?"

What happens if the story turns out to be a sad one, or



Perfection in detection: super sleuth Ariel Bruce reveals in her role as a matchmaker who binds together fragmented families

the discovered parent wishes, for good reasons or not, to leave the past buried?

"Nine results in ten are excellent. But there can be cruel and hurtful rejections, and they are extraordinarily sad. But even when it doesn't work out I've never heard anyone say that they wished they hadn't done it."

"Most people come to terms with their family history once they learn about it. It's the unknown which is so disturbing, and won't let them alone."

"One person I worked for had the experience of everything falling to pieces a year after making contact. The prognosis probably wasn't good from the start. But I'm still there for the client, two years later, which makes all the difference."

Because she believes that she has no right to withhold information Bruce follows each project to its conclusion — even if she has doubts about the outcome.

'Cruel rejections can be terribly hurtful and sad'

"I tend to get a picture from the address, handwriting, a voice on the phone — you get a sixth sense," she stressed.

What happens if a client comes in a vindictive spirit? Polly Toynebee refers to such a case in her book *Lost Children* and in fiction, if not in fact,

to everyone. NORCAP (the National Organisation for the Counselling of Adoptees and their Parents) is a fast-growing, widely experienced self-help group, convinced that volunteers with first-hand experience are the best helpers. They lack the resources, however, to undertake traces themselves.

Philida Sawbridge, director of the newly-established Post-Adoption Centre at 48 Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1, says: "As things stand, Ariel Bruce is very much fulfilling a need. Uncovering the past is very challenging. Imagine confronting a total stranger, perhaps in some sterile building or dreary office, who knows more about your past than you do yourself?"

She thinks that counselling is all the more important because the 1975 Act has only been implemented in part. "The well-known section 26 provision for one hour's com-

pulsory counselling was meant to be backed up by a full range of local authority adoption services. But because of the cost they simply do not exist. There are also many more searches, I believe, than the Registrar-General's tiny percentage suggests."

Most of Ariel Bruce's 70 successful searches will never be counted in the Registrar-General's statistics. They are the fruit of a freelance effort already well on the way to fulfilling a prophecy made by her tutor when she graduated from Kingston Poly.

"We believe that Ariel Bruce will make some innovative contribution to social work," the report said. "We also expect it will be outside the statutory social services."

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Ariel Bruce can be contacted at 38, Beechcroft Manor, Oaklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey.

All the fury of the fayre

Roll Up, Roll Up. Ye Olde Christmas Fayre is upon us. The Big Bang, Bob Geldof and the Standing Order to Oxford have not made a jot of difference to this, the biggest time of the year for buying and selling second-hand goods in the name of charity. We do, it seems, thrive on enjoying the antic one day and filling it the next with someone else's rubbish.

In our efforts to swell the charity coffers, there are, however, greater pitfalls than sheer bad taste. This is my guide to the Christmas fayre. First, be aware of the consumer law as it now stands. If you are a stallholder for the great day itself do not get carried away on behalf of the Good Cause and tell white lies about the things you're flogging. If that old television set you persuaded Mrs Smith to buy for a fiver actually blows up in her face the next day, you might be able to avoid being prosecuted for selling dangerous goods, but if you sweat it's colour and it turns out to be black and white, Mrs Smith is entitled to have money back on the grounds of misdescription.

If you're a customer remember that it's a rotten trick to force the seller into a corner about the goods. If you've spent all year being the chided-up *Whizz*-buying woman now is the time to abandon any abusive customer technique you may have acquired. Should you get roped in to



The season of sweet charity looms and shoddy second-hand goods are a-plenty

holding a Christmas fayre in your home, do consider the cost of wear and tear in advance. If you're going to make £200 in an event which wrecks the hall and stair carpet, ruins the paintwork and leaves you exhausted and not speaking to your husband all the following week, maybe you would be better cancelling the invasion. If it's too late to do that at least have the good sense to serve food and wine roughly the same shade as the floors.

How to make your money? Surprisingly enough, some new ideas don't work as well as the old favourites.

"Down the Drain" was a cunning potential cash builder. I saw at one event the other evening. You had to drop

money down a piece of clean plastic drain pipe, guess the evening's total and, if correct, win back half of the money raised. Around a 120 well-heeled guests swarmed on amounts up to £145 but the total proved to be a paltry £30.

Now that we are all hypochoondriacs and take an unhealthy interest in things medical, one heart surgeon I know of has hit on the right idea. At his fund-raiser he brought home his equipment and had guests queuing up, and paying for, their blood pressure readings. Pity he hadn't used even more imagination. Guessing who apart from the hostess — has the highest blood pressure in the room could be a livelier game than guessing the weight of the cake.

Finally, beware the idea of a jumble stall. Remember that old joke about the woman helper stripping off her cardigan during the first flood of bargain-hunters and finding later that she'd sold it for 25c.

"Whoever in their right mind would have let their husband walk around in these?" can roll off the tongue all too easily as you exhibit those flared checked golfing trousers. It's the icy reply "I did" that blows more cruelly back at you than any bleak mid-winter gust.

Vivien Tomlinson

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From Ellen Eisenstein, Richmond, Surrey.
Regarding Barbara Amiel's article on the question of a man's right to decide if his unborn child is to be aborted or not (Wednesday Page, November 19), for ages it has smugly been claimed by men that anatomy is destiny and that women must accept the disadvantages of being female if they want the so-called advantages being a woman offers them in return.

The same goes for men — they cannot have it both ways, either. If anatomy is destiny,

TALKBACK

then men must live with the fact that since they cannot give birth, then they should not have a deciding voice over who else must.

From Mrs S Parkinson, Maidstone, Kent.
Barbara Amiel concludes her article, "I don't want to force any unwilling mother to spend years bringing up an unwanted child, but surely when there is a parent happy to do this..." I suggest one should add "or couple wishing to adopt".

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1116

ACROSS
1 Relief (8)
5 Falcon leash (4)
9 Peter bone (7)
10 Linger uncertainly (5)
11 Concor (5)
12 Fantastical (5)
13 Exam questions (5)
15 Roulette disc (5)
16 Shove aside (5)
18 Sacred Jewish writings (5)
20 Shield (5)
21 Sleeve ribbon (7)
23 Makra free of (4)
24 Body of ideas (8)

DOWN
1 Coda (6)
2 Overt (6)
3 112½ degrees head-on (1,1)
4 Football attack leader (6,7)
6 Jealousy (4)
7 Indian military leader (6)
8 Alashed (8)
11 Marital unfaithfulness (8)
13 Second hand (4)
15 Claim relinquishment (6)
17 Cheap and showy (6)
19 Second hand (4)
22 Cow noise (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1115
ACROSS: 1 Herpes 5 Nippy 8 Hay 9 Saxony 10 Avenue 11 Syc 12 Thatch 14 Walter Gropius 17 Fairness 19 Arch 21 Canned 23 Dangle 24 En 25 Supper 26 Eymon
DOWN: 2 Enn 3 Promoter 4 Shyster 5 Nyssa 6 Cue 7 Tindem 13 Captivity 15 Adamant 16 Residue 18 Eider 20 Cello 22 Nap

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THE TIMES DIARY

A long trail a-winding

David Steel attains some of his goals, even if he has to wait ten years to do so. After enduring a decade of fearfully cramped political life, he hosts a modest occasion tonight to celebrate the acquisition of a suitably spacious office in the bowels of the Palace of Westminster. So labyrinthine is the route that he has had a pub-style sign hung outside the door to declare his presence within. One cross-party irony is that Steel is beholden for all this to Labour MP John Silkin, chairman of the Commons accommodation and administration sub-committee. I gather that Steel intends to offer a prize, bruted to be a bottle of champagne, for the first Liberal to find his or her way to the premises tonight. I am putting my money on Elizabeth Shields, recent victor at the Ryedale by-election, who has been gleaming intelligence from Steel's research staff.

Chez new

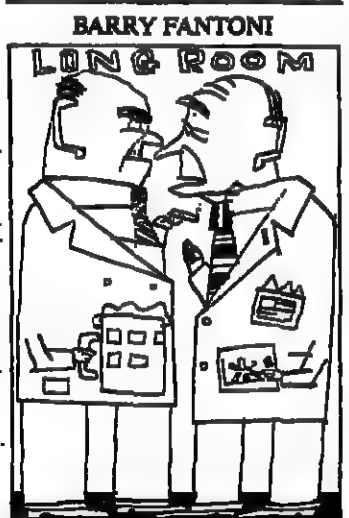
Much amusement among Tory MPs over a request by the whips' office for updated telephone numbers and addresses "and any other numbers where you may be contacted." One MP tells me: "One's mind boggles as to what might be included in that range." He said it, not me.

Millennial

I have heard of forward planning, but Michael Storey, managing director of Westminster Cable Television, stretches the concept to its logical limit. He has just put down a £5,000 deposit for an option to book Wembley Stadium for the night of December 31, 1999, for a "Greatest Hits of the Twentieth Century" concert. I have to confess that the prospect of Mick Jagger strutting about the stage just a few years short of qualifying for a pension strikes me as fine entertainment value.

Exotic East

The most improbable holiday resort, I would have thought, is the London Borough of Islington. Hence I am surprised to note that it is the only London council to have its own stand at the World Travel Market in London. "For the first time we have taken a stand at the show to promote the borough and create jobs," says a spokesman. "Where are Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea?" Flicking a few timely ideas from Bradford, which promoted *Last of the Summer Wine* and *Herriot Country* holidays, Islington is offering "EastEnders mini-break weekends," with the chance to meet members of the cast.



Barry Fantoni

London pride

London's cabbies so enjoyed sporting the Guinness "Genius" posters on their vehicles that about 30 of them are still driving around with them, even though their advertising payments stopped in May. The reason, I am told, is that taxi drivers, who have to pass a test called "the knowledge," consider the slogan to be a good reflection of their driving skills.

Clive James, in typically uncharitable style, on the second part of his autobiography: "Actually, parts of it were written by Princess Michael."

Liaison off

Sir Alfred Sherman's campaign to save the Federation of Conservative Students has ground to an abrupt halt. At a meeting hosted by Sir Alfred on Monday night, 50 FCS members came out against the Sherman plan to establish a liaison committee; instead they have opted to join the Conservative Collegiate Forum, the organization which will replace the FCS. Only Harry Philbbs and a few other right-wing diehards are now refusing to knuckle under to Central Office. Game, set and match to Norman Tebbit.

Enlightened

Sammy Wilson, Belfast's hardline Democratic Unionist lord mayor, switched on the city's Christmas illuminations yesterday, and his fellow Loyalists having boycotted the ceremony last year. Immediately beneath the huge "Belfast Says No" banner which is still slung across the front of the city hall in protest against the Anglo-Irish agreement, Wilson suggested yesterday that the slogan for the next few weeks should be "Belfast Says Noel." I hope it catches on.

PHS

Amos Perlmutter on the departure of Admiral Poindexter

A good hand badly played

The resignation of President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Vice-Admiral Poindexter, exposes disastrous mismanagement of foreign policy. Current foreign policy ideas are sound; it is their execution that is at fault.

How did this embarrassing debacle occur? It has a great deal to do with the quality of those responsible for management and policy guidance at the National Security Council, going back as far as 1980. Under Reagan, the NSC has been headed and managed by men with little knowledge of foreign policy, as was the case with Judge William Clark, his second National Security Adviser, or of a specifically military outlook, such as Admiral Poindexter and former colonel Robert M. Carlucci. The only academic was Richard Allen, who soon proved to be without the stature of a Kissinger or Brzezinski and left. In fact, Reagan aides have always been apprehensive of the NSC being dominated by another Kissinger or Brzezinski. The result has been a succession of mediocrities or men of very narrow focus.

Kissinger understood the design and structure of foreign policy — and the delicacy of its implementation. In the present crisis he would have sensed the opportunities presented by a forward policy towards Iran while recognizing its pitfalls.

Members of Reagan's staff have never been clear on the line of demarcation and influence between the NSC and State Department. Normally it depends on a president's personal style, but in Reagan's case it has never been clearly defined.

After this latest fiasco, the need for a strong National Security Adviser has become painfully clear; indeed, this may be the most significant lesson to emerge from the whole affair.

It was the job of the NSC to co-ordinate with the State Department, the Defense Department and other agencies to recommend to the President a consensus of policy. That was the NSC failure, recommending a policy which was obviously opposed by Defense and State.

As Secretary of State, George

Shultz should have made sure that his influence and thinking got to the President instead of pretending ignorance at a later date. He was, like the NSC, negligent in his duty.

In an earlier address to the nation, President Reagan offered the possibility of a breakthrough on Iran and the Gulf. To address itself to the issues of Shia terrorism and fundamentalism, the US must grapple seriously with Iran. Reagan was attempting to reverse Carter's discredited policy, and well he should. He has to take into account the reality of the revolution and the influence of the Khomeini regime. None of the other so-called revolutionary movements in the Middle East — from Nasserism, to Pan-Arabism — have managed to change Muslim and Arab societies, their ruling classes, their political systems and politics in the way that Khomeini has changed Iran. These are the facts, however unpleasant, on which US policy must be based, not on some idealistic hope.

An American policy that geared itself to recognition of Iran and the

reality of its revolution is rife with opportunities. If anything, it would probably encourage a certain degree of restraint among the Muslim fundamentalists and might help assure that religious zealotry is not used to dominate the Arab Gulf states. It would also assuage the fear that dominates thinking in the pro-western sheikhdoms.

In recognizing Iran formally, the US would at least have some leverage over the regime. Economic assistance would provide the US with further leverage in bringing an end to Shia terrorism now conducted from Syrian-occupied Lebanon. It would also act as a further obstacle to the Russians' political inroads in the Middle East. The political options resulting from diplomatic negotiations include the ability, in addition to containing Shia terrorism, of restraining the more repugnant aspects of Khomeini's revolution and finally ensuring the stability of the Arab Gulf states.

The author is Professor of Political Science at the American University, Washington DC.

Yuri Orlov on western misunderstandings over Soviet human rights

Peace through pressure

International security cannot be guaranteed by agreement between governments alone. Ribbentrop and Molotov embraced and shook hands immediately before the war between Germany and the USSR. One could object that in negotiating for peace and friendship they did not have mutual disarmament in mind. Today however, even mutual disarmament by the USA and the USSR would not, of itself, guarantee peace.

Of course disarmament is essential. It would help to reduce the danger of war breaking out accidentally. On the other hand, complete nuclear disarmament would reduce the mutual fear of retaliation, and this would make it easier for a war to start with conventional weapons; and no matter how another world war might start, it would end with nuclear strikes. The nuclear end of the Second World War and the fierceness with which small wars are waged today leave no doubt of that.

True, security would not be guaranteed by agreement about mutual disarmament. Something else is required: the relationship between the peoples of the West and the Soviet bloc must be approximately the same as that between France and Great Britain. Both are nuclear powers, but a nuclear war between them is inconceivable.

Is such a relationship possible between western nations and the USSR? Would not the USSR have to be capitalized, and the West Sovietized? I do not think so. The ordinary people on both sides do not want a nuclear war, so to ensure that one never happens it is essential that they have complete control over all foreign and military policies of their governments.

Further democratization is necessary for this to be achieved even in the West; in the Soviet Union, the present system is totally at odds with this essential requirement for mutual security. Soviet citizens are not only denied the opportunity to protest against the military actions of their government but cannot even take an interest in them. If our Helsinki monitoring groups had become involved in these issues we would all have been sentenced as "spies" or "traitors".

The degree of secrecy in the USSR is such that passing information about political prisoners can be viewed as "treason", so it is not hard to imagine the reaction to publishing information about military policy. In



Jeffrey Morgan

considering international security we cannot ignore the direct link to the overall question of human rights in the USSR, including the citizen's right to criticize government actions.

The defence of Soviet citizens who are persecuted for expressing such criticism is therefore not only a universal moral duty but a self-interested insurance against dangerous recklessness by the Soviet leaders. The West, unfortunately, seems almost unaware of this fact.

To ensure that the people of both sides get to know and understand each other, and so demonstrate that they want peace, there must be no barrier to free and open communication. No one in the USSR should be persecuted for their desire to leave and return to the country whenever they wish and to talk freely to foreigners.

At present, Soviet society still remains a kind of "underground organization" with respect to for-

eigners. When an "underground organization" possesses the might of a superpower, this is dangerous. Faced with the might of the Soviet state, many people in the West display cowardice, selfishness and a feeling of hopelessness. It seems to them that it is better not to irritate the Soviet government. Some will help to save individual victims of persecution but they do not relate this to world security, and they do not believe in the possibility of change within the USSR.

In fact change can be brought about, given greater collective efforts. Soviet society is incomparably better today than in the 1950s before the death of Stalin. By the end of the century a sufficient degree of openness should have been achieved to make it relatively safe for citizens to criticize military and foreign policy. But this must be fought for today, and constantly.

John Tuppen finds cross-Channel parallels with Britain's fight against urban decay

Squalor of the inner cité

With low incomes, the unemployed and a large and diverse immigrant population often resented or misunderstood by the French and with a high proportion of adolescents, an inevitable consequence of the arrival 20 years ago of a large number of young families. Members of this group now face particular problems in getting jobs, especially when, as is often the case, their educational standards are low. Not surprisingly, many of these youngsters feel rejected and frustrated.

In the early 1980s their resentment exploded with a series of violent outbursts, notably in the huge complexes of Les Minimes at Lyon and "Les 4000" at La Courneuve in the northern suburbs of Paris. It was clear that a major programme of remedial action was needed.

The government commission appointed to look into the problem put the emphasis on improving educational and vocational training and promoting racial harmony. Local bodies were given greater administrative responsibility to end the delays caused by the previous need to get the agreement of several ministries for rehabilitation measures.

The most obvious improve-

ment since then has been to the physical environment. Tower blocks have been demolished, despite their recent construction, and an increasing number of the remaining apartments substantially remodelled. Balconies have been added, kitchens enlarged and the buildings' previously musty and uniform facades brightened up in the hope that residents will take greater pride in their surroundings; usually they are consulted on improvements in advance.

To improve conditions generally, health centres, post offices, computer centres, and recreation halls were built and evening classes started. More social workers now operate in these areas; and advice is available on managing the family budget. Young people are helped to find jobs. Foreign housewives can learn about French cuisine, and considerable information and guidance are available to try to assist young people to find their first job. More ambitiously, employers have been urged to provide work in the immediate neighbourhood and some rehabilitation jobs are available for the local residents.

There has been a significant change of attitude among the housing bodies responsible for the estates. Their role in the past was simply to manage the property, often from a distance. Now some have established a local presence to resolve daily problems, such as the need for repairs, which were previously left unattended. Similarly, allocation procedures have been revised to ensure a wider assortment of occupants in any one block.

More than 120 suburbs have now been designated for priority rehabilitation; and in the last four years 40,000 flats have been modernized and vacancy rates have fallen; the worst of the early 1980s has largely evaporated.

Such reforms would not necessitate the collapse of the Soviet system. They require only the rejection of the Kremlin's dream of communism dominating the world. Dissidents in the USSR well understand the direct connection between the dream that communism will prevail and the closed and repressive nature of the regime. But their thinking is still insufficiently understood in the West.

It was with great difficulty that the West realized the possibility — indeed the necessity — of using the Helsinki Final Act to improve human rights in the Soviet Union. But before we can speak about the possibility of change, we have to make the effort for these changes to occur. At the Belgrade review conference, for example, not one western delegation made such an effort. Now, at the Vienna review conference, everyone is speaking about human rights, but the majority do not name the country guilty of the violation. Most of the western delegation have failed to mention the names of individuals who should be released immediately from prison, labour camps, exile or psychiatric detention, or of the refuseniks who have waited many exhausting years to leave the country.

It is essential to demand, openly and persistently, a universal political amnesty in the USSR. This would lead to the release of at least 800 political prisoners, first and foremost the 40 or so who monitored the observation of human rights agreements. At the very top of the list should be Dr Andrei Sakharov, Anatoly Koryagin — nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize — writer Anatoly Marchenko, the Jewish leader Louis Begun and Professor Naum Meiman and his wife, who has cancer. It is crucial to lay down in the text of the next concluding document the unassailable rights of citizens to monitor human rights.

At Helsinki the Soviet Union promised to the world that its citizens would enjoy basic freedoms. The West must demand that that promise be kept. Some progress can be observed, but as yet it is a far cry from the right to fundamental criticism which is so important for the security of us all.

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Dr Orlov, a physicist, spent nine years in Soviet prison camps and internal exile because of his work for human rights. He was allowed to leave the Soviet Union for the West last month.

Moreover, as the number of areas qualifying for government assistance has grown, expenditure in any one district has diminished, leading to the disappearance of some new services and a dissipation of the initial enthusiasm. Indeed, the problem of an equitable and adequate distribution of financial resources is likely to grow, because it is now clear that rehabilitation is no longer a problem only of the *grands ensembles* but also of much of the public-sector housing throughout the country and, increasingly, privately-owned property in certain inner areas.

Here a further parallel might be drawn with Britain, where the idea of rehabilitation being linked with one type of area has been shown to be false.

Wilfred Beckerman

Pay: Lawson's real U-turn

Perhaps I should not be writing this in public since the success of the Chancellor's economic strategy depends on nobody noticing what it really is. But politicians cannot keep anything hidden for long, as President Reagan has discovered over arms for Iran. So Lawson's real U-turn, as distinct from the imaginary one, might as well be exposed now.

Until recently he constantly declared that unemployment could not be reduced without greater flexibility in the labour market, and particularly in real wages. He enunciated this doctrine clearly in his Mises lecture in 1984 and repeated it frequently thereafter. In this he was stoutly supported by the OECD and by *The Economist*, which regularly published a diagram prepared by the OECD purporting to establish a relationship between real wage rigidity in various countries and the degree to which their unemployment rates have risen. These diagrams show Britain as having the most rigid real wages and the highest increase in unemployment. Thus one is expected to deduce that Britain's rise in unemployment must be a result of our greater wage rigidity.

It is this doctrine that the Chancellor seems quietly to have dropped. Presumably he has finally discovered that, given other features of the British economy, unemployment is not the result of real wages being too high but of being too low.

The continued rise of real wages of those in jobs is probably partly responsible for the increase in overall demand and slight fall in unemployment over the past few months. This must be very welcome to the Chancellor in the run-up to an election. It makes it less necessary for him to take expansionary action in the form of large, genuine increases in public expenditure. (The planned increases announced in the autumn statement arose largely out of increases in areas of local authority expenditure over which central government has little control.) The rise in wages also adds to government tax revenue, thereby leaving scope for further expenditure increases or tax cuts in the next budget without laying himself open to charges of fiscal irresponsibility in the interests of a pre-election U-turn.

Over the expansionary action would be undesirable on two main counts. First, it would unnerve the City and so threaten the exchange rate and import prices, which are a major determinant of domestic inflation. The level of unemployment has little effect on inflation since the unemployed become

"outsiders" with no say in wage negotiations. Secondly, some economists would argue that if those in work clearly saw, or expected, expansionary policies they might demand such large wage increases as to prevent the outsiders from being hired.

In an economy where investment is sluggish, where the non-oil balance of payments is worsening, and where the government's rhetoric prevents it from offsetting the deflationary balance in the private sector by an adequate deficit in the public sector, the only hope for any sustained expansion of demand must lie in the continued rise in real wages.

This is a slender hope and a short-term remedy at best. On the demand side too much of the increased consumption will be of imported goods and, on the supply side, our competitiveness will suffer even further. By early next year the deterioration in the balance of payments could become more serious, and with it the threat to the exchange rate. Lawson may still have time to get in a generous budget in the spring before the price is paid, including perhaps heavy devaluation justified as part of a package involving our entry into the European Monetary System — hence, perhaps, the current refusal to do so before it is really necessary.

It is like the pre-election developments in 1964 which left the incoming Labour government with a balance of payments crisis to deal with. But the 1964 election did produce a change of government. This time the strategy of raising real wages for the 87 per cent still in work may mean that it will be Lawson who faces the consequences of a consumption-led boom.

The official Conservative doctrine has always been that inflation must be eliminated for employment to be raised. It is now clear how this works: inflation comes down, fortunately, as a result of falling world commodity prices. Interest rates are still kept high, largely to protect the exchange rate, which is the crux of the anti-inflationary policy. This dampens investment and weakens the current balance of payments. But, since none of this has much effect on wages, in the end real wages rise enough to have a bit over for domestic consumption after satisfying increased demand for cars and other imports. The election is won, followed by an even nastier balance of payments crisis. But, in political terms, that's a long way off.

The author is a Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

Paul Valley

Walking into trouble

Los Angeles
Some of the time in California they mean what they say. There are the bartenders who tell you that beneath their short white jackets they are really poets and men of letters dedicated to the re-evaluation of the reputation of Rupert Brooke. There are the would-be movie moguls with nothing to lose except their rented West Hollywood apartments who will wax greedily about the bankability of the new package they are putting together. And there are the traffic signs. In Los Angeles when it says "Don't Walk" it means "Don't Walk".

The other day I saw an assorted line of automobiles standing respectfully at the junction of Sunset and Vine while an elderly woman with a gnarled walnut stick hobbled across the road. The traffic signal was on green but the cars stood patiently as she moved before them. There was no unseemly revving of the engines, no sounding of horns, not even an irritated tapping of fingers on the steering wheel.

To me, a recent arrival from New York, where cars seem to be compulsorily fitted with some heat-seeking anti-pedestrian device, it seemed an unnatural occurrence. As I leaned forward to get a better view of the woman I noticed the face of the driver of the white and green taxi cab in which I was sitting. He was smiling tolerantly. The woman was old, in her eighties, perhaps, and wrinkled as a sun-soaked sultana. Her clothes were elegant, though their designer would not have thought her their best advertisement. An aging starlet of the golden era? I wondered aloud. "No, it's just a little old lady," he said.

But if West Coast drivers are surprisingly benign in their attitudes to aberrant pedestrians the same cannot be said of the traffic cops. As she reached the sidewalk a policeman was waiting with an open notebook. He began to write. The sign had said "Don't Walk", and the City of Los Angeles, no respecter of age, was giving the little old lady a ticket.

Since 1980, policemen in Greater Los Angeles have written out nearly 250,000 tickets in a deliberate campaign which has doubled the number of prosecutions. Looking around the place it is hard to imagine that there ever were that many pedestrians, let alone jaywalkers.

Los Angeles is a city conceived, constructed and controlled by car drivers. The streets are wide and the houses in the suburbs stand in well-spaced gardens with ample driveways. The conurbation sprawls for tens of miles in each

direction. Public transport in many areas seems virtually non-existent. It is almost as if the very act of walking constitutes a challenge to the autocracy of the automobile.

If ignorance is no excuse for jaywalking, neither is injury. An 82-year-old woman who was recently inching her way across a Beverly Hills boulevard was knocked down by a speeding car. When she arrived home after 10 days in hospital she found a jaywalking ticket to welcome her.

Defending the routine practice of ticketing both jaywalker and driver in such cases as good policing, the LA traffic department says that strict enforcement helps keep down the number of deaths. The US National Safety Council has estimated that more than a third of all pedestrians killed in motor accidents were jaywalking, and certainly the number of pedestrians killed in Los Angeles fell last year by 28 per cent to 102.

But there seems no consensus among traffic experts on whether there is any causal relationship. New York and Chicago, which both have more relaxed regimes, suffer similar rates. And there can be no doubt that the issue raises other complications — as well as tempers.

A Santa Monica lawyer, Robert Mann, has filed a complaint alleging "unlawful detention" after being held for 20 minutes by a traffic cop who claimed that he couldn't read the attorney's signature on the jaywalking ticket — you sign them in lieu of bail as a guarantee that you will plead correctly at a future hearing. Another case is pending in which a man claims that during his arrest for jaywalking in 1984 he was shot in the groin by a police stungun, rendering him impotent.

Policemen say that most jaywalkers accept their ticket good-naturedly. Those who ask why the cops aren't out doing something more useful, like catching murderers, are told that the cops would be if they didn't have to waste time ticketing jaywalkers.

There are few exemptions. Recipients of LA jaywalking tickets, the police here will proudly tell you, include persons as elevated as the US Attorney General, Edwin Meese III, and the head of the CIA, William Casey. To get off with a mere reprimand in this principality of the angels it seems you have to be a member of the phlegm-coated ranks of the scraphim. Linda Evans, an actress in America's leading soap, *Dynasty*, was earlier this year let off with only a warning. Well, some of the time in California they mean exactly what they say.



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THE FIRST CASUALTIES

The resignation of President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter, and the murky circumstances which attended it are evidence that only part of the truth, and perhaps a very small part of the truth, about the US arms-for-Iran affair has so far been told. The more details are uncovered, the more still seems to be buried. For the first time since he took office, power sits uneasily on the President. It is a dispiriting sight.

President Reagan's judgement on matters of national and international import is now being comprehensively called into question. For the second time since the dealings with Iran became public, he has been forced to backtrack. Only 24 hours before announcing Mr Poindexter's resignation, he had insisted that his policy towards Iran had not been in error. There would, he said, be no resignations. Now there has been both a resignation and a dismissal and the whole edifice of the National Security Council is starting to look shaky.

If President Reagan's advisers had been actively trying to discredit his administration, they could scarcely have done better in the timing and content of yesterday's revelations. It now appears that not only was the United States selling arms to Iran in contravention

of its own embargo, that not only was it so lacking in circumspection as to get caught, but that the sales operation itself was handled at worst dishonestly, at best with incompetence.

Ten days ago, when the President's enemies and even many of his friends were baying for blood, a single resignation, most probably that of Mr Poindexter, might have sufficed. The National Security Adviser had already been tainted by suggestions that he had fed disinformation to the *Wall Street Journal* about US intentions towards Libya. The misguided nature of the Iranian contacts appeared to seal his fate. Now, his scalp will not be enough. The calls will not and should not be for blood, but for the truth.

Thus far, the truth amounts to a sophisticated piece of creative foreign policy which went wrong because the other party — a certain group of ayatollahs who hoped for power in a post-Khomeini Iran — was found out or chose to divulge the details. It seemed to extend to a deal in which a quantity of arms was sold to Iran in return for the release of US hostages held in Lebanon.

It now includes elements of devious financial dealing in which the main beneficiaries were the Nicaraguan Contras. Promise of a full judicial inquiry into the affair may

help to still curiosity, speculation, most of it harmful to the President, will continue until it is complete and probably beyond.

In stating that he was not apprised of all these elements of the Iran deal, President Reagan may have helped to protect his position as the rest of this sorry affair unfolds. The Secretary of State, George Shultz, may also benefit. He has said all along that he knew some, but by no means all of the truth.

Yet the President's ignorance reflects poorly both on him personally and on his closest advisers. Until now the US public and the world had assumed that even if President Reagan had neither the time nor the inclination to engross himself in the fine details of policy-making, he had the broader vision appropriate to his office, he had an overall grasp of the situation and he knew when to take advice and from whom. Yesterday's revelations cast doubt on that last and perhaps crucial point.

The President retains his reputation for openness which may have been enhanced by the decision to give details of the financial irregularities as soon as they became known, even though they were bound to be as damaging as anything that has emerged so far. That openness now needs to be continued — if necessary, at the cost of further departures.

TINKER, AUTHOR, SALESMAN, SPY

The revelation that Mr Peter Wright received half of the royalties for *His Trade Is Treachery*, the book upon which he collaborated with Mr Chapman Pincher, has further confused an already tangled affair. Mr Wright claims that it is evidence of a Government plot to smear his name. It certainly reveals him as a man driven by financial gain as well as by other motives he may have.

Its initial impact, however, was more unfavourable to the Government's case than to Mr Wright's. First appearances were that Lord Rothschild, presumably acting in some official interest if not capacity, had arranged for Mr Wright to be brought over to Britain and offered a substantial sum for his cooperation in writing a book about events in British intelligence during his period of service there.

The implication was clear and extremely damaging. It is that far from protecting the confidentiality of state intelligence services, which is the principle the Government claims to be upholding in the Australian courts, Ministers on this earlier occasion had procured its wholesale abandonment under the insubstantial cloak of Mr Wright's anonymity.

Questions are certainly raised by this curious episode which, until Lord Rothschild offers his own account, will be subject to conflicting interpretations. In whose interest was Lord Rothschild acting and with what purpose? On his own account? On behalf of a faction in one of the intelligence agencies? Or on behalf of "the Government", however defined? No one at present knows the answers to these questions.

The view that he was acting for the Government rests not upon evidence but upon three vague inferences. The first is that, in intelligence matters, a dark official conspiracy must always be afoot. Another arises from Mr Wright's reverential attitude to Lord Rothschild whom he sees as a Mycroft Holmes moving in the very highest circles in the land and thus, almost inevitably, the Prime Minister's fixer on this and other occasions.

The final "proof" of official culpability is that Ministers failed to move against the Pincher-Wright book in the courts. That last point is the strongest. But it is more plausibly interpreted as a political judgement that greater trouble and embarrassment would be caused by prosecution than by official silence.

This is a strong argument and one, indeed, which the Government's critics would have preferred it to have acted upon in the Australian case. Why, they ask, do they resist now a logic they apparently accepted then?

The different official decisions in the two cases rest upon a crucial distinction which the Prime Minister rightly reaffirmed in the Commons yesterday: namely, that there is a world of difference between a signed memoir by a former intelligence officer and a book by an outsider, however well-supplied with information from insiders. It is more plausible, more authoritative and so more damaging.

Yet if the damage done to the Government by the news of Mr Wright's royalties diminishes upon examination, the damage done to Mr Wright himself increases. Until now, he has presented himself as

man driven entirely by the need to expose both a traitor and a cover-up. It now transpires that he is in need of money in order to keep his farm from bankruptcy and that he sought to obtain it at the cost of breaking his duty of confidentiality.

To conclude from this that Mr Wright acted from corrupt financial motives would be to go too far. He gives every appearance of being obsessed by the Hollis affair and of wishing to continue in public the battle he lost at the secret trials. Nonetheless, doubt has at least been cast upon the purity of his motives and by extension upon the justice of his case.

What is more important is that the introduction of financial gain into this affair has greatly increased the importance of the principle that the Government is defending. When the duty of confidentiality was threatened solely by a former intelligence officer with an obsession about a possible "mole", it was threatened by a rare and exceptional hazard. It was then possible to make some sort of case that silence was the most prudent response to publication.

Good, however, is a much more common human failing than obsessiveness. If intelligence officers are able with impunity to sell to publishers the secrets they obtained during their service, some will be tempted by the large rewards to do so. The avalanche of secrets that would then ensue — and the knowledge that all current secrets might be exposed after the next retirement — would make it impossible to run an intelligence service at all. That is the magnitude of what is at stake in Australia.

TEACHERS OF QUALITY

There is still a strongly held view in some parts of the teaching profession that to attempt to assess quality in education is a waste of time. Which reports are all very well for washing machines, so the argument goes, but education is a more complicated matter altogether.

Of course, it is perfectly true that good teaching is easier to recognise than to define. But the dilemma now facing the Education Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker, over teachers' pay is essentially about quality. A higher level of teachers' pay is appropriate — that is agreed. Nor is there now much dispute about the quantity. The agreement worked out at the Arbitration and Conciliation Service between the majority of teacher unions and the local authority employers could cost about £70 million more over the next 2 years than the £600 million proposed by the Government, but in relation to the total size of the package the gap is not wide.

What remains at issue is the improvement in the quality of teaching which it can be expected to achieve. A steep change in pay levels such as

the teaching unions propose can only be contemplated if it delivers an improvement in the productivity of teachers.

That is why Mr Baker really has no choice tomorrow when he meets the leader of the local authority employers, Mr John Pearman, other than to stick to his guns in demanding a radical restructuring of teachers' pay scales. The choice is between an ACAS deal, which gives most to those on the lower grades and actually compresses differentials, and the Baker proposals which would improve the prospects of middle grade teachers.

Admittedly, both sets of proposals offer a reasonably attractive starting salary, around the average for good honours graduates. But whereas the ACAS deal gives most to those who do least well, extending the rewards for grade one and two teachers, the Government wants to introduce incentive posts for good teachers, and for those teachers in subjects where there is a shortage in grades three, four and above. They have the further merit of keeping good teachers in the classroom rather than forcing

them to seek promotion into administrative posts.

Mr Baker seems prepared to accept the ACAS deal so far as it relates to terms and conditions. But he needs to look at the details of the agreement with a very beady eye. It is, after all, the number of free periods, the degree to which teachers are expected to cover for absent colleagues and similar factors which convert perfectly acceptable pupil/teacher ratios into unacceptably large classes. Nor should he uncritically accept the aspiration of a maximum pupil/teacher ratio of 33 without insisting on action concerning the minority of classes which are accepted by educationalists to be not too large, but too small for effective teaching.

With two out of the six teacher unions not prepared to sign the ACAS deal, Mr Baker can afford to hold out for something closer to his own objectives. Although parents fervently want an end to disruption in schools, they also want to see the Government insisting that the quality of education should be improved if its cost is to increase.

Cutting councils down to size

From Mr P. J. Barlow
Sir, You report (front page, November 20) that "a radical plan to allow the break-up of large local authorities into smaller, self-sufficient councils is being considered by Government ministers". Would it be too much to ask if the Government consideration could extend north of the border?

Most of your readers probably do not know that one local authority — Strathclyde Regional Council — administers education, roads, social work and the police and fire services for half the population of Scotland. Three village communities in Argyll — Milnart, Ardnamurchan and New Inish — are at present fighting proposals by Strathclyde Council to close their primary schools.

What chance do we have of a fair hearing when our country, which has a coastline longer than that of France and whose remotest part is as far from Glasgow as the heart of Somerset is from London, has one (that's right, one) representative on Strathclyde region's schools subcommittee? Yours etc, P. J. BARLOW, Annanvale, Milnart, Inveraray, Argyll, November 21.

From Mr R. T. Rivington
Sir, The Government is considering the introduction of plans for dividing large boroughs like Brent for the purpose of better serving the interests of smaller groups within it. Another borough deserving the same consideration is Oxford, and the Government should invite the Boundary Commission to investigate its separation into two boroughs of Oxford and Cowley, for environmental reasons.

The old city and west Oxford suffer constant environmental damage from a Cowley-dominated borough council. On environmental issues, such as the current plan to legislate a serious encroachment on Port Meadow, their Labour councillors steadily oppose the Cowley Labour majority.

The two towns have different origins at different times and serve different purposes. The continuity is fortuitous and maligned.

Overheads in maintaining two municipal administrations would be too expensive to justify, but it is now time to enquire whether two separate municipal bodies could share the expenses of administrative organizations, making separate decisions for it to execute. As a firm of local government, this idea may be a fresh one, but the weaknesses of local government are egregious and should be intelligently fought. Yours faithfully, R. T. RIVINGTON, 5 Carlton Road, Oxford, November 21.

Research decline

From Dr Denis F. Owen
Sir, Recent discussions about the decline of "British" science are misleading. Today there are many more research institutes and universities scattered throughout the world than there were thirty years ago. Scientists often move between them and are thus able to work in each other's countries.

Many of the papers and books I have published have been written from universities abroad and bear their addresses and so, using the method of scoring suggested by the Editor of the *British Veterinary Journal* (November 7), they would presumably be counted as "non-British" contributions. Yet I have not changed my nationality.

Science is international and the published results of research are freely available to all, no matter their nationality. Indeed, the nationality of the contributor is not important. What is important is that the work is done and is published for all to read.

I suggest there is no such thing as "British" science and that scoring "UK publications" is a misleading and worthless activity. Yours sincerely, DENIS F. OWEN, 2 Shelford Place, Bow Street, Oxford.

Health or wealth?

From Dr James Lindsay
Sir, The Government is now planning to spend £20 million on educating us about the dangers of AIDS. The recent campaign to advertise the British Gas share issue has cost £30 million. It would appear that our masters are more interested in Sid's money than in his life. Yours faithfully, JAMES LINDSAY, Flat 1, 11/13 Broad Court, Bow Street, WC2, November 21.

Future of N Ireland

From Father J. Buckley
Sir, Mr A. T. Q. Stewart (feature, November 15) declared, "In this part of the United Kingdom democracy has ceased to operate". The historical reality is that democracy has never fully operated in that corner of Ireland. The plantations of 1609, which drove the natives from the best land and replaced them with settlers, put paid to the possibility of democracy. The centuries that followed saw the minorities discriminated against time and again. The bar of history testifies to this.

Failings in the churches' mission

From Mr Anthony Richmond
Sir, I agree with Mr Waller (November 17) that the state of the cemetery in Peshawar is to be regretted, but even more to be regretted is the fact that Christians in this country do so little to help the Church in Peshawar pay its clergy, maintain its buildings and institutions or extend its training and work.

Given these problems, and noting also the sometimes heroic efforts of Peshawar's tiny Christian community to serve in their hospitals and clinics, schools and workshops some of the two million Afghan refugees in their diocese, then to see the matter of the upkeep of the cemetery become a secondary one.

The link between the Church of England and the Church of Pakistan is conducted mainly through the mission societies and is, supposedly, a partnership.

In recent years the Pakistani partners, for their part, have contributed richly to this partnership. For example their assistance in the liturgical explorations with other churches, notably the Roman Catholics, the progress they have made in dialogue with Islam, which can probably be studied by those struggling with the same questions in Western cities; the new flowering of a religious tradition in music and poetry, pointing new ways to the revival so sorely needed in faded Western churches; the lesson of their experience as an impoverished and sometimes scorned minority, a predicament increasingly familiar to Christians in this country.

As our Western missionary zeal slacks to a whisper of soft options, the Pakistani Church has taken over some of the hard work, sending missionaries to dangerous and depressing places like the Gulf states and inner-city Britain. (The Rev Daniel Singh, who died in June, was an outstanding missionary in London).

The British partners, for our part, seem to have little to offer but money and we are increasingly reluctant to part with it. Between 1970 and 1982 giving to all the overseas churches through mission agencies of the Church of England dropped steadily to a mere 4.3 per cent of parish income.

Mr Waller asks whether it is morally right for the British Government to have walked away

from its responsibilities for a cemetery in Peshawar. I suggest there is a far deeper question to be asked. Is it morally right for British churches to have walked away from their responsibilities towards a people to whom we are indebted historically and a sister church to which we are indebted today?

Yours sincerely, ANTHONY RICHMOND, 78 Spring Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, November 19.

From Mr T. C. Wilkinson
Sir, Mr D. M. Waller's cry of concern at the condition of the Peshawar cemetery highlights a serious situation. It is not, however, a new state of affairs and, alas, it is repeated throughout the sub-continent.

The British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (Bacas), the charity to which Mr Waller refers, came into existence ten years ago as a result of mounting concern from those who visited the sub-continent about the military and civil cemeteries there, excluding those of the two world wars under the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

A policy was adopted of seeking to involve all the interested parties — the Church, the State, the Archaeological Survey Department, the Services, the business houses — in South Asia and the UK. We have been very fortunate in receiving their active co-operation.

Once a local group has been established, Bacas provides a bridge for advice and such funds as we can raise for selected capital projects (e.g. repair of walls, gatehouse, restoration of tombs etc), with the long-term aim that the local group should accept responsibility for regular maintenance.

This takes time but projects have been successfully pursued at such places as Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur, Tanjore, Banna, Dhaka, Rangpur; and each year we extend the list. Peshawar is now near the top of our list. We have been attempting to build up a group of local helpers there. Yours faithfully, THEON WILKINSON (Honorary Secretary, British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia), 76½ Chalfont Avenue, SW15, November 18.

College free speech

From Mrs Maureen Johnson
Sir, I was concerned to read in *The Times* (report, November 19, earlier editions) that students at University College, Cardiff, have been issued by the students' union and the college authorities with guidelines on how to heckle political speakers.

These guidelines permit heckling and chanting to take place if racist or sexist comments are made from the platform.

It seems that we in this country are being muzzleed by fear that any comment we might make will be misinterpreted by people who are anxious to prove that they are on the side of the angels but who have not got the intellectual equipment to argue their point of view in democratic debate.

Patent protection

From Sir Graham Wilkins
Sir, Over the last year Government ministers at various venues have stressed the importance of investment in research and development to the wellbeing of the British economy and have berated industry for inadequate allocation of resources in this direction.

It must therefore be a disappointment to industry that does invest heavily in research and development to find that inadequate protection is afforded to that investment in this country. This is of concern to many industries, particularly the pharmaceutical one.

Earlier this year the Government gave the pharmaceutical industry an undertaking to revoke the licence of right provision of the 1977 Patent Act. This provision is unique to the UK and unfairly undermines the already scant protection given to patents on medicines.

It had been hoped that provision for this promised action would be incorporated in an intellectual property Bill. Unfortunately no such Bill was envisaged in the Queen's Speech and I do hope that the Government has identified some other vehicle for this overdue legislation.

Not only is research and development in medicine important for the wellbeing of the British economy; it is essential for the wellbeing of the nation's health, more so now than ever.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM WILKINS, Abcoda, Walton Lane, Shepperton-on-Thames, Middlesex.

I work in further education and I am aware that I cannot any longer speak freely to my colleagues about racial subjects lest my comments be misconstrued. I passionately believe that it is only by speaking freely and honestly about problems that we can make any attempt to solve them.

The guidelines of University College, Cardiff (an institution which should by its very nature be encouraging informed debate, whatever the views) reinforce that trend towards intolerance, and hence towards the suppression of free speech on any "hot" subject.

Yours, MAUREEN JOHNSON, 54 Kings Road, Dkley, West Yorkshire, November 20.

The law's delays

From Mr Leo Pilkington
Sir, The Financial Services Act 1986 received Royal Assent on November 7. Section 195 (short-term debentures) came into force immediately, and sections 177, 178, 180, 182, and most of 198-210 (investigations into insider dealing) were brought into force on November 15. Yet the text of the Act is not yet available, and HM Stationery Office is out of stock of the only edition of the Bill which even approximates to the Act.

Ignorance of the law is, of course, no excuse. What about unavailability of the law? Yours faithfully, LEO PILKINGTON, 37c Albert Square, SW8, November 24.

More distant past

From Mr Adrian Room
Sir, I am afraid it is not true to say (feature, November 20) that Sir Stamford Raffles gave Singapore its name when he landed there in 1819.

The designation of *Sinapura* ("lion city") is on record as having been that of the Malay capital here in the fourteenth century, and Raffles, who spoke Malay, simply adapted the name to its present conventional spelling.

He did personally raise the British flag there on January 29 that year, however, on the site of the old fortifications. Doubtless patrons of the Raffles Hotel mark this event with an annual Singapore Sling or two.

Yours faithfully, ADRIAN ROOM, 173 Causeway, Petersfield, Hampshire.

accompanied by Dr FitzGerald, tramping on the democratic rights of people. Even I, an Irishman, would have to admit that she is genuine and consistent in opposing terror and violence and in defending the rights of individuals. Whatever else, one cannot take that from her.

In his sidesnepping and distorting, Mr Stewart does a disservice to the truthful and objective study of history.

Sincerely, JOHN BUCKLEY, Spanish Place Rectory, 22 George Street, W1, November 18.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 26 1952

The first-night notice of *The Mousetrap* was a reasonable, pleasant piece in harmony with *Fleet Street's* general reaction; superlatives were rare in the reception given to what is billed as the world's longest running play. Since it opened 34 years ago, it has taken parts in the eight-strong cast, and there have been 88 leading ladies. The cast is now changed annually, the last change taking place at the beginning of this week. This evening's performance will be the 14,151st.

CAST LIST

(Taken from *Who's Who in the Theatre*)
Mollie Robson — Sheila Sim
Giles Ralston — John Paul
Christopher Wren — Allan McClelland
Mrs Boyle-Mignion O'Doherty — Major Mervyn Dymally
Miss Caswell — Jessica Spencer
Mr Paraviciini — Martin Miller
Det. Sgt. Trotter — Richard Attenborough
Producer: Peter Cotes

AMBASSADORS THEATRE

"THE MOUSETRAP"

By AGATHA CHRISTIE

A woman has been strangled in Paddington and at Monkswell Manor, which is normally within easy reach of London, the spectral presence of Hercule Poirot seems to supervise the examination of half a dozen snowbound paying guests by a very young policeman who arrives on skis. It is all for their own good — and that, too, is in the Poirot tradition — since one other person, or perhaps two other people, will probably meet the same unpleasant end.

The Poirot tradition is, in fact, part of Mrs Christie's elaborately skilful scheme to keep us guessing or even to make us wince the matter aside as already guessed. As usual, we swallow the bait. No sooner have we made the mental note that Poirot might advantageously be substituted for the detective on skis, have half a cubic or so added to his height, and let himself be impersonated by, say, Mr Austin Trevor, than the author shows excellent reason why her detective should be instead within Mr Richard Attenborough's range. No sooner have we, following the precepts of our old friend Poirot, peered back into the past — for this is what is known, rather grandly, as a revenge tragedy — and found in the present a suitable couple for the child victims of long ago, than the ingenious pattern shifts, and we are back where we started.

So much, it may be supposed, the prizetale could also do. Yet the piece admirably fulfils the special requirements of the theatre. There are only two acts, the first of exposition and preparation, the second of action and conjecture. The people are nicely assorted, and each is individually labelled and readily identified — the mainly young woman, the effeminate young man, the dubious military man, the maiden lady who perpetually fancies she is being imposed on, the elderly foreigner with the pointed face whom Mr Martin Miller makes half deaf, half jolly in-the-box, and, of course, the young couple who own and run the place. These provide the colour, the mystification, the suspects, and the screams, and Miss Jessica Spencer, Mr Allan McClelland, Mr Aubrey Dexter, and Miss Mignon O'Doherty, as the first of the characters mentioned above, and Miss Sheila Sim and Mr John Paul, as the last two, all fit the play as snugly as pieces in a jigsaw puzzle. There remain the alarming silences, which are perhaps the true test of such a piece on the stage. That we feel them to be alarming can only be thanks to the producer, Mr Peter Cotes.

Racing handicaps

From Mr G. N. D. Locock
Sir, I really do not see the point in sending racehorses to stud as soon as they have won a group race — an act which invariably puts three or four noughts on their value.

John Hislop (November 11) is quite right in arguing that in top-class races, the winning of which determines breeding prospects, abnormal nutrients should not be permitted. The usual purpose of these is to overcome some inherent defect.

But John Hislop did not go far enough in arguing a case for breeding from the best and toughest animals. I suggest that the rules governing all three-year-old group one races should be changed so that winners of all such races are kept in training as four-year-olds, unless a veterinary certificate is produced to say they are unsound. The racing public would get the benefit of seeing good horses more often and breeders would have greater scope for thoroughly assessing the relative merits of horses before they are sent to stud. Yours faithfully, G. N. D. LOCOCK, Greengates, Wintbury, Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Cold comfort?

From the Reverend Andrew Beer
Sir, A parson in a hacking jacket! In the words of Lady Bracknell, "the idea is grotesque and irrelevant".

Anyway, it's surely only because lots of people spend lots of money on lots of clothes that the Reverend Edward Underhill (November 22) is able to display himself in his Oxonian finery, to the envy of all in Tyne and Wear. Yours faithfully, ANDREW BEER, St Pancras, Irelands Lane, Lewes, East Sussex.

Sinking inquiry a step nearer

By Richard Evans and Michael McCarthy

The long-demanded inquiry into the loss with all hands of the bulk freighter Derbyshire six years ago became a possibility last night as efforts continued to salvage her sister ship Kowloon Bridge, aground and breaking up off the Irish coast.

The junior Transport Minister, Mr Michael Spicer, said that inspectors investigating the wreck of the Kowloon Bridge would consider "any link with the loss of the Derbyshire" which might be cause for appointing a formal investigation.

A Dutch salvage tug tried without success yesterday to shift the 159,000-ton Hong Kong-registered carrier. The Government came under intense all-party pressure in the Commons last night to hold an inquiry into the Derbyshire sinking, with Labour and Conservative MPs highlighting the similarities between the two incidents, and that of another sister ship, the Tyne Bridge, which suffered severe structural damage in the North Sea in 1982.

The Derbyshire disappeared without trace and with the loss of all 44 people on board in a storm off Japan in 1980. She was one of a series of six identical oil, bulk and ore carriers built by Swan Hunter's Haverton Hill shipyard on Teeside (since closed) between 1971 and 1976.

No explanation has ever been given for her disappearance, but when the Tyne Bridge was damaged in 1982, the other four ships in the series, including the Kowloon Bridge, were found to have cracks and weaknesses at bulkhead 65 and longitudinal girders misaligned after the bulkhead. They were repaired.

The other ships in the series are the Ocean Sovereign (formerly the Furness Bridge), the Kona (formerly the Sir John Hunter), the Sir Alexander Glen and the East Bridge (formerly the Tyne Bridge).

Inquiries by *The Times* this week disclosed that the Ocean Sovereign is on her way to Taiwan, the Kona is unloading oil in Sarcoch, Sardinia, the Sir Alexander Glen is in Singapore undergoing maintenance, after taking oil from the Gulf to Korea, and the East Bridge is on her way from Singapore to China.

Parliament, page 4

India greets 'crusader for peace'

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, arrived in the capital of his closest non-communist ally, India, yesterday to a welcome which was warmer than any within recent memory. He came to sign a new trade agreement and to talk about weapons supply, and in return received wholehearted backing for his stand at Reykjavik.

Several hundred thousand people — one estimate put it as high as half a million — lined the streets of Delhi to watch his 100-car motorcade pass on its way from the airport to the presidential palace where he is staying. They had been driven in by bus and lorry from the country villages of the nearby states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan, and the majority knew only that they had come to see "a great leader."

The entire school population of Delhi had been given the day off, and the great processional routes around the palace were lined with young people wearing their peacock bright uniforms.

In fact they did not see much of him as the darkly glazed windows of his specially-imported bullet-proof Russian limousine were kept firmly closed.

Archives of marigolds and jasmine spanned the road decked with banners declaring that Indo-Soviet friendship would last for ever. Two marigold covered model elephants greeted the Russian leader outside the airport, and a presidential guard of honour trumpeted his arrival at the palace.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, in his welcome speech described the Soviet Union as "a tried and trusted friend in our hours of need," and hailed Mr Gorbachev personally as "a crusader for peace."

Later at a banquet held in the Lutyens-designed former palace of the Nizam of Hyderabad, Mr Gandhi made no bones about where he stood on Reykjavik. "It was unfortunate," he said, "that the Strategic Defence Initiative blocked agreement."

Mr Gandhi added: "We resolutely oppose the militarisation of outer space. It does not matter that SDI is described as defensive. Security is not enhanced but dangerously jeopardized by creating yet another deadly and extremely sophisticated weapon. The logic of a shield in space is deeply flawed."

Speaking after he and Mr Gorbachev had spent more than three hours in a tête-à-tête that one side described as



Indian children welcoming Mr and Mrs Gorbachev in New Delhi yesterday.

"a fairly long and marathon session" he also referred to Mr Gorbachev's initiative towards an Asian and Pacific security pact, but without granting it any more than a general welcome calling his Vladivostok speech "thought-provoking" but emphasizing: "Greater exchange of ideas at all levels is needed to work out a basis for cooperation."

Mr Gorbachev for his part declared that "Soviet-Indian relations and contacts are in need of still greater dynamism," but stressed that their relations "do not seek to counter or challenge genuine and legitimate interests of other countries."

While the two leaders were meeting privately, their aides met in the Indian Cabinet room to agree a joint statement, an agreement on economic and technical co-operation, a proposal to bring a Soviet cultural festival to

India in return for a festival of India in Moscow, and a new consular agreement.

Meanwhile, Mrs Rabin Gorbachev was taken to see some Indian art and culture at the Modern Art Museum — where she admired the work of the Indian woman artist Anurita Sheriff, and the drawing of the Bengali polymath Rabindranath Tagore.

At the National Museum she was shown earlier examples of India's cultural heritage, as surrounded by eager photographers, she deeply embarrassed her Indian guide by asking questions about the sexual imagery of Indian religious artefacts.

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Chelsea bomb link to Action Directe

Continued from page 1

linked attacks at strategic points around the barracks including the main gate and residential areas.

As it was the unit seems to have panicked. All three bombs were dropped together in two bags near the sergeants' mess and accommodation for WRACs. Before the devices could explode the bags hidden in baskets were spotted by passers by.

Yesterday Mr Justice Jones ordered that the two men, Mr Charles Botting and Mr Harold Cooper, should each receive £250 for carrying out their duty and saving lives.

In one bag police found a birth certificate, students' cards and a letter with an address. Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch watched the address, a flat on a large council estate near Kilburn, and found that the family there had innocently agreed to put up a number of people sometime just before the bombs were planted.

Finger print experts examining a plastic bag in which the bombs had been put had already discovered prints which led them to McLaughlin.

He was at home in London-derry unaware of his blunder when the RUC arrived to arrest him. As officers rushed in he hid behind a wardrobe. Questioned by police his four-year-old son said he had no idea where his father was, but McLaughlin's youngest son, little more than a year old, pointed to the wardrobe.

There were more blunders to follow. In the area round the address used by the unit, Talbot Walk on the Church End estate, neighbours reported seeing a white Ford camper whose presence they linked with the planting of the bombs and the presence of the IRA unit. Police began searching North London and found the abandoned vehicle.

Forensic scientists found traces of explosives but there was also incriminating evidence against McLaughlin. Police found a puzzle magazine which he had used to while away the time. McLaughlin had left his name and address written on the magazine which also carried his finger prints.

At the start of the trial two weeks ago a second defendant, Mr Peter O'Loughlin, a carpenter from Londonderry, was ordered to be acquitted on conspiracy to cause an explosion.

Letter from Peking Testing the black waters of China

Shanghai citizens hold their breath when crossing bridges over the stinking black waters of the Suzhou River, a notorious example of China's acute river pollution problems.

Pinpointed by some environmental experts as the filthiest stretch of flowing water in the world, the minor tributary is a dump for one million cubic metres of industrial waste a day.

In the same week that a chemicals plant disaster contaminated the Rhine from Switzerland to the North Sea, China said it would step up the fight against water pollution.

Industrial growth left unchecked

The country is helplessly tackling the damage inflicted by decades of unmonitored industrial growth, plus new hazards from the thousands of small factories that have sprung up as a result of economic reforms in the 1980s.

The Suzhou River's giant neighbour, the Yangtze, will become "totally polluted" by the year 2000 unless steps are taken to control the 16 million tonnes of liquid waste which pour into it daily, according to the official Chinese press.

Government statistics show that around 13 per cent of the length of the main streams of the country's main rivers are affected. The problem is often worse in minor rivers.

In north-east China, where much of the country's heavy industry is based, the Government has claimed success in curbing the discharge of mercury and other pollutants into the main Songhua River.

But the cost of making the Songhua clean enough for fish was equivalent to some \$55 million (£38.5 million) and scores of factories had to be closed or relocated to meet the goal.

The fast-flowing Yellow River, China's second largest, suffers less from industrial pollution than from the highest levels of silt in the world. The results of centuries of deforestation and soil erosion in its upper reaches were worsened by the orders of the former Chinese leader, Mao Tse-tung, to clear uncultivated land for grain production.

The river sweeps away 1.6 billion tonnes of soil a year, and its regular floods have

cannot it the title of "China's Sorrow."

Despite localized successes claimed for tree-planting and other schemes to halt the destructive process, China has the world's biggest erosion problem, with soil loss "out of control" across 380,000 square miles, the *People's Daily* said recently. 70 per cent of all China's woodland, will disappear by the end of the century unless felling is slowed, the press reported this month.

The State Environmental Protection Bureau says the quality of water in the Yangtze, Yellow, Songhua and Pearl rivers has actually improved since 1981, and that 22 per cent of industrial waste water is now treated, compared with only 15 per cent five years ago.

But the Government admits the main big pollution threat now is not from heavy industry but the myriad small enterprises it has encouraged to develop in the countryside.

Only loosely controlled by the state, and often using outdated technology, they have in some cases wrought environmental havoc.

Nor do central state-run bodies seem inclined to put environmental considerations before bureaucratic convenience and profits. Communist China has no independent watchdog groups.

Despite a national water pollution prevention law introduced in 1984, villagers in the south-eastern province of Fujian had to write to China's Parliament to stop a local factory, run by the Army, from polluting water supplies.

Radioactive waste dumped in well

The pollution killed crops and caused "hideous diseases", the New China news agency reported, without giving details.

In another case publicized this year, 25 tonnes of radioactive waste from a laboratory was dumped in a village well, and threatened to contaminate reservoirs near Peking.

An investigation led to the dismissal of the deputy director of the Environmental Protection Bureau, who had let his brother do the dumping.

Andy Roche
of Reuters

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh give an evening reception for members of the Diplomatic Corps, Buckingham Palace, 9.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, presents the 1986 Royal Society of Arts' presidential awards for design management, and attends a conference on the Management of New Ideas at

the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam St, 9.40; later he gives the London Lecture to the Inner London Branches of the British Institute of Management and attends a lunch at Hudson's Bay House, Upper Thames St, 12.20; and then presents the awards for the Young Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species Environment Awards Competition, Buckingham Palace, 3; and attends a meeting of the Trustees of the Westminster Abbey Trust, Buckingham Palace, 5.30.

The Duchess of Kent, Controller-Commandant, the Women's Royal Army Corps, visits the London District Provost Company RMP, Rochester Row, 10.45.

Princess Alexandra visits the Royal Samaritan Hospital for Women, Glasgow, to mark the centenary year, 11.45; and opens St Oswald's Hospice, Regent Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2.15; later she visits the PDSA Animal Treatment Centre, Blandford Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 3.40.

Exhibition in progress
Kumihimo: Japanese silk braids by Catherine Martin with Rachel Leach and Anne Tomlin. Welsh Museum and Art Gallery, Central Library, Llandfawr St, 4.45 to 6.15, Sat 10 to 4.45 (ends Dec 6).

Musical
Cardiff Festival of Music: Concert by the City of London Sinfonia; Concert Hall, Cardiff University, 7.30.

Piano Recital by Robert Colley Usher Gallery, Lincoln Rd, Lincoln, 7.30.

Organ recital by Dr. Allan Wicks: Brighton College, Easton Rd, 7.45.

Concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta: Sherborne Abbey, 7.30.

Organ recital by Thomas Trotter; Birmingham Town Hall, 1.

Concert by the Brodsky String Quartet: West Somerset School, Milcombe, 8.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus: Wessex Hall, Poole, 7.30.

Talks, lectures
Weather forecasting for radio and television, by Bill Giles: UWIST, Pharmacy Lecture Theatre, Redwood Building, King Edward VII Ave, Cardiff, 7.

Old porcelain as New, by Hugh Morley-Fletcher, Room MBI, Buckingham University, 7.30.

Aspects of Portuguese Culture: contemporary fiction in Portugal, by Dr. L. Rebelo: John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton, 7.30.

The Earth Belongs Unto The Lord: Highland Crofters of the 1880s: Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow, 7.30.

A visitor to China, by Dr. C.J. Bradish, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury, 7.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Debates on Opposition motions on bus deregulation and on the dispute at J.E. Hanger & Co Ltd.

Lords (2.30): Debates on the arts and on the state of academic medicine.

New books — hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
History of Italy, by M.J. Finley, D. Mack Smith, G.H. Duggan. Penguin, £12.95.

After The Second Flood, Essays in Modern German Literature, by Michael Hamburger (Corgi, £16.95).

Maps of the Bible Lands, Images of Terra Sancta through Two Millennia, by Kenneth Nebenzahl (Times Books, £20).

Realism in Alexandrian Poetry, A Literature and its Audience, by G. Zanker (Corgi, £12.95).

The Complete Alice & The Hunting of the Snark, by Lewis Carroll, illustrated by Ralph Steadman (Corgi, £19.95).

The People's Anger, Justice and Revenge in Post-Liberation France, by Herbert R. Lottman (Hutchinson, £12.95).

The Royal Court Theatre 1966-1972, by Philip Roberts (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £18.95).

The pound
Australia \$ 2.45
Austria S 2.45
Belgium F 2.45
Canada C 2.45
Denmark Kr 2.45
France F 2.45
Germany DM 2.45
Hong Kong \$ 2.45
Ireland P 2.45
Japan Y 2.45
Netherlands G 2.45
Norway Kr 2.45
Portugal Esc 2.45
Spain P 2.45
Sweden Kr 2.45
Switzerland Fr 2.45
USA \$ 2.45
Yugoslavia D 2.45

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Cheques and other foreign currency payable at the discretion of the bank.

Real Price Index: 288.4
London FT Index closed down 12.2 at 1270.

Anniversaries
Births: William Cowper, poet, Great Berkhampstead, Herts, 1731; George Forster, explorer, Nassenhuben, Poland, 1754; John Alexander Newlands, chemist, London, 1837; Sir Arnold Stein, archaeologist, Budapest, 1862.

Deaths: Nicolaus Steno, geologist, Copenhagen, 1686; John McAdam, inventor of the road surface bearing his name, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, 1836; Conway Paterson, poet, Lymington, Hants, 1896; Sir Leonard Jameson, leader of the abortive raid (1895) into the Transvaal, London, 1917; Cyril Connolly, critic, London, 1974.

Best wines
In a blind tasting in which 27 wine retailers submitted wines to accompany a traditional Christmas dinner, the following were the top selections when the short-listed wines were tried with the food:

West Weymouth: Ruston River Valley Chardonnay 1980, Les Amis du Vin (01-638 0200), £7.25.

To accompany roast turkey and trimmings: Robert Mondavi 1981 Pinot Noir Reserve, Les Amis du Vin and Haleswood Wines (01-735 1515), £7.95.

To accompany Christmas pudding: 20 year old Hennessy VS, H. Allen Smith (01-637 0857), £3.95.

Portfolio Gold
The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

WEATHER

A westerly airstream will cover the British Isles but fronts will approach NW areas. S Wales and England except the N, will have sunny or clear intervals and scattered showers. N Wales, N England, Northern Ireland and Scotland will have some sunny intervals and showers. The showers will be heavy at times particularly in the W. More persistent rain may reach W Scotland and Northern Ireland later. Winds will be mainly moderate or fresh W. Temperatures near normal. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Mainly dry in the SE, occasional rain and drizzle in the N and W. Mild and windy in the N. Near normal temperatures in the S.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY
Aberdeen 7.54
Belfast 7.54
Brighton 7.54
Cardiff 7.54
Dover 7.54
Exeter 7.54
Glasgow 7.54
Hull 7.54
Liverpool 7.54
London 7.54
Manchester 7.54
Newcastle 7.54
Plymouth 7.54
Portsmouth 7.54
Reading 7.54
Sheffield 7.54
Southampton 7.54
Stoke 7.54
Sunderland 7.54
Tees 7.54
Wrexham 7.54

Tide measured in metres: low-3.280m.

AROUND BRITAIN

Sunrise: 7.11
Sunset: 4.11

Cloud: 1-3
Wind: 1-3

Temp: 1-3

Humidity: 1-3

Pressure: 1-3

Visibility: 1-3

Sea: 1-3

Ice: 1-3

Thunder: 1-3

Lightning: 1-3

hail: 1-3

snow: 1-3

fog: 1-3

drizzle: 1-3

rain: 1-3

sun: 1-3

clouds: 1-3

moon: 1-3

stars: 1-3

planets: 1-3

comets: 1-3

meteors: 1-3

aurora: 1-3

solar: 1-3

lunar: 1-3

cosmic: 1-3

galactic: 1-3

intergalactic: 1-3

extragalactic: 1-3

supergalactic: 1-3

megagalactic: 1-3

gigagalactic: 1-3

petagalactic: 1-3

septagalactic: 1-3

octagalactic: 1-3

nonagalactic: 1-3

decagalactic: 1-3

undecagalactic: 1-3

duodecagalactic: 1-3

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sexdecagalactic: 1-3

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quadragesimalgalactic: 1-3

quinquagesimalgalactic

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1986

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1270.4 (-12.2)
FT-SE 100
1619.3 (-17.2)
Bargains
25600 (27792)
\$SM (Datastream)
129.45 (-0.26)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.9225 (+0.0050)
W/German mark
2.6358 (-0.0247)
Trade-weighted
67.9 (-0.3)

Thousands
rush for
Gas forms

N M Rothschild, the merchant bank adviser to the Government on the British Gas share sale, said "tens of thousands" of completed forms were received yesterday and 30,000 mini-prospectuses given out at its London headquarters in Bristol, the National Westminster Bank received more than 15,000 completed priority forms in the first post. On the "grey" market, British Gas traded yesterday at about 61p. National Westminster Bank will offer a selling service for British Gas shareholders at 245 branches in England, Scotland and Wales, selected to reach the majority of the population and not at all its branches as reported in *The Times* yesterday.

BTR attacks
Pilkington

Industrial conglomerate BTR last night accused the management of Britain's biggest glass manufacturer, Pilkington, of "ten years of sub-standard performance and inconsistent results". BTR, bidding £1.16 billion for Pilkington, said that £1.00 million invested in BTR in September 1976 had increased by £34,054 while the same amount invested in Pilkington would have risen by only £2,018.

Profits up

Powell Duffryn, the fuel distribution, shipping, engineering and construction materials group, yesterday reported a 27 per cent increase in pretax profits to £10.04 million for the half year to the end of September 1986. Turnover fell from £353.86 million to £299.86 million. An interim dividend of 4.75p was declared.

EMAP ahead

EMAP, the newspaper, magazine and exhibition group, said it does not intend to launch a hostile bid for Home Counties Newspapers. The group, which made pretax profits of £5.6 million in the half year to October 4, this week increased its stake in Home Counties to 20 per cent.

Allied up 21%

Impressive figures at Allied-Lyons yesterday fulfilled City expectations. The brewing division's buoyant results and lower financing charges allowed pretax profits to jump 21 per cent to £148 million for the half year to September 13.

Co-News 22.28 Foreign Exch 25
Consent 23 Traded Opt 25
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MONEY MARKETS

STOCK MARKETS

New York 1898.34 (-7.73)
Tokyo 17747.50 (+98.27)
Hong Kong 2361.12 (+17.53)
Australia 1350.9 (+13.3)
Sydney: AO 6730 (+13.3)
Frankfurt 2065.5 (+10.9)
Brussels 3982.39 (+13.01)
Paris: CAC 392.9 (+0.5)
Zurich: S&K Gen 559.20 (+0.6)
London: FT 1270.4 (-12.2)
FT: GB 67.9 (-0.21)
Closing prices Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%
3-month interest 11.11%
5-month interest 11.11%
US Prime Rate 7%
Federal Funds 5.75%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.37-5.38%
30-year bonds 101-101 1/4

CURRENCIES

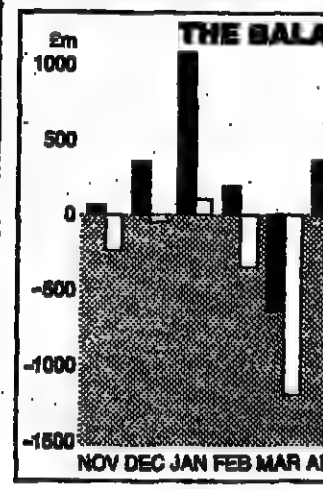
London: New York
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Invisibles change reverses deficit

Britain back
in the black

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain had a trade deficit of £635 million last month, as imports rose to their highest level since March last year. But the current account was in surplus by £65 million because of a big upward revision of the estimated monthly surplus on invisible trade.



The trade deficit of £635 million compared with £885 million in September and £1.51 billion in August. Exports and imports both rose last month, partly because of an increase in the value of trade in oil.

The main feature of the figures, however, was a sharp upward revision in the estimated surplus on invisibles - services, transfers and interest, profit and dividends. Officials now estimate this surplus to be running at £900 million a month. Last month, the estimate was £650 million a month. The monthly invisibles surplus for the July-September period has been increased to £2800 million.

As a result, the current account was in surplus by £65 million last month, while on the previous invisibles' estimate it would have been in deficit by more than £200 million. In September there was a deficit of £85 million. The quarterly current account deficit for the July-September period has been reduced from £1.23 billion to £634 million as a result of the changes.

Officials said yesterday that no detailed explanation could be offered for the revision of the estimated invisibles surplus. Mr Robin Cook, Labour's Trade spokesman, has tabled Parliamentary questions challenging the timing of the revision of the figures.

Bank sets underwriting ceiling

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England has imposed its first-ever limit on banks' total underwriting exposure to coincide with the enormous British Gas share flotation. The underwriting process for the £5.6 billion share issue was completed last Friday.

So far, there have been few rules governing the underwriting commitments undertaken by banks. At this stage the limit will apply specifically to banks, which fall under the Bank of England's supervisory control, and will not include stockbrokers and securities houses in the City.

Some bankers are worried that this will put them at a disadvantage to other institutions and could cause complex supervisory problems when foreign banks and securities houses are involved. Before the underwriting of British Gas was completed, the Bank of England contacted banks involved and asked them not to let their total underwriting exposure go higher than four times their underlying capital.

Banks were asked to contact the Bank of England if they planned to take on very large underwriting exposures to British Gas. The limit of four times

capital for underwriting business has been under discussion for several months but until now the Bank has not required any institution to adhere to it. The underwriting commitments of institutions such as merchant banks commonly go much higher than this limit and the Bank has made no attempt to prevent this. Although the Bank has informally imposed the limit of four times capital to coincide with the British Gas flotation, the limit is expected to apply to all bank underwriting for the time being.

The Bank yesterday declined to comment. The question of limits on underwriting exposure is the subject of a Bank consultative paper issued in July, which suggests an absolute ceiling of 25 per cent of a bank's capital on exposures to individual customers. Exposures of 10 per cent or more would have to be reported to the Bank automatically. But the paper makes clear that more time is needed to formulate guidelines on total underwriting exposures.

With the underwriting and sub-underwriting of British Gas completed, it looked unlikely that any bank had even come close to breaching the Bank's limit.



Pleasure, not business: mechanical engineer Richard Thorne, of Northwich, Cheshire, pictured yesterday after winning the use of Concorde for a day, the first prize from 160,000 entries in the British Airways Concorde Challenge

Cambrian to comb
records on
Boesky

By Lawrence Lever

Cambrian and General Securities, the investment trust formerly run by Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced American arbitrageur, is to call in accountants to investigate whether Mr Boesky channelled illegal insider deals through Cambrian. A spokesman for S G Warburg, the merchant bank called in on Friday to advise the Cambrian board, said yesterday: "We have to have a very detailed investigation. We will need a firm of accountants to crawl through all the records."

\$300m suit likely 28

The spokesman said the investigation would extend beyond those shares which the SEC had already publicly highlighted as illegally dealt in by Mr Boesky to include shares mentioned in connection with Mr Dennis Levine. In May Mr Levine confessed to having made more than \$12 million (£8.45 million) profits from insider trading.

The spokesman said: "Basically we have to identify all those stocks which have been mentioned as sensitive in connection with Mr Boesky and Mr Levine. There is no doubt in my mind that a very thorough investigation has got to be done into these trades. Our investigations have been very preliminary."

The preliminary investigations carried out by Cambrian so far have involved cross-checking Cambrian's trading records against specific dates published by the Securities and Exchange Commission for Mr Boesky's illegal trades.

Profits ahead

Coated Electrodes International, which came to the USM in June, has increased its interim pretax profits by 25 per cent to £653,000.

IC Gas board hits out at
'inadequate' £750m bid

By John Bell, City Editor

The board of IC Gas, the group best known for its Calor Gas interests, yesterday accused the Barclay brothers of trying to buy the company on the cheap. David and Frederick, the Barclay twins, have offered £750 million through their much smaller US-based energy group Gulf Resources.

In a hard-hitting defence document, the board says the Barclay terms, 530p a share, value the Calor operations at only 9 times historic earnings. IC Gas shares, which have remained well above the level of Gulf's offer closed last night at 566p.

The defence document contains no profit forecast, though it is clear that one has been prepared for possible use. IC Gas has attacked the Gulf proposals as being inadequate in both form and content. "To make the offer, Gulf is having to borrow up to £670 million and two-thirds of these borrowings must be repaid within nine months. Gulf hopes to achieve this in part through the disposal of the Belgian operations," says IC Gas.

It points out that the need for rapid asset disposals and the resulting tax liability together with the costs of the offer must limit the amount Gulf can offer for IC Gas shares.

The document gives independent valuations for the non-Calor parts of its business putting £472 million on the company's Belgian interests and £60 million on the North Sea operations. "Gulf's offer implies a value for Calor of only £218 million representing a multiple of only nine times earnings for the year to March 31, 1986. Why give Calor away?" asks the document.

The document also rejects the idea that IC Gas has performed badly over the past few years.

Reed joins satellite TV consortium

By Our City Staff

Reed International, the paper and publishing group, is joining the Direct Broadcasting Limited consortium, one of the leading applicants for the satellite broadcasting franchise soon to be awarded by the Government.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is expected to interview the five main contenders for the franchise this week and announce the winner on December 3.

The other corporate shareholders in the DBL consortium are British & Commonwealth Shipping, Cambridge Electronics, Electronic Rentals, Ferranti, News International and Sears.

CBI hails 'significant' drop

Pay deals down to 5 1/2%

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday reported a drop in pay settlements to the lowest level for three years.

The CBI's pay databank shows average increases provisionally dropping from 6.4 per cent in the first half of this year to 5.4 per cent in the third quarter.

The CBI hailed the drop as "significant" and said it would please the Government, which is worried that continued high earning levels might further erode Britain's competitiveness and increase unemployment.

The CBI believes a brighter picture is emerging on Britain's labour costs, although it was cautious about improvements in international competitiveness. "The rapid rise in industrial output in the third quarter has resulted in a 2.7 per cent rise in output per head in manufacturing," it said.



Sir Peter Walters: UK now "much more competitive" following over the levels of a year ago. Therefore, some of the recent deterioration in British unit labour costs has been reversed," the CBI's latest employment affairs survey said.

But, it added: "It is too early to judge how this has affected Britain's position in terms of international competitiveness." "The rapid rise in industrial output in the third quarter has resulted in a 2.7 per cent rise in output per head in manufacturing," it said.

UK managers closing the gap

Although British managers still lag behind in the European pay league, the gap is slowly closing, according to Hay Management Consultants' latest annual survey of European remuneration. The improvement looks possible because British salary increases in real terms are slightly higher than in most European countries, says the survey.

"British managers will continue to be among the lowest paid in Europe but as companies face increasing international competition the gap will gradually close," it says.

Of 16 European countries, Britain's gross salaries are higher only than those in Greece and Portugal, according to the survey. Taken on purchasing power, Britain lags behind all but Greece, Portugal and the Irish Republic, the British executive has only half the spending power of his Swiss counterpart. Austria ranks highest on salaries, followed by West Germany and Switzerland - all are ahead of the United States. But on the basis of purchasing power, the US comes first, with Switzerland second.

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High street key to Alphameric

By Cliff Feltham

Alphameric, the electronic keyboards company which has benefited from business generated by Big Bang, believes there is a growing demand for its equipment in the high street.

It is taking orders for installing terminals in building societies, motor car showrooms and travel agents.

Mr Douglas Craig-Wood, the chairman, who yesterday reported a sharp jump in Alphameric's half-time profits, said: "Retailers of all kinds, from financial services to food and white goods, can see the benefit of being able to use our equipment to accurately monitor stock control and at the same time provide

on-the-spot information for customers."

Among the company's clients are the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, which is using the equipment to provide marketing information, and Nabisco, the food group, which is providing its salesmen with terminals to use at home.

Other customers include the Stock Exchange, with more than 5,000 Topic systems installed. Alphameric has also won large orders for the City's big dealing rooms.

At the half-way stage of the year, pretax profits were up from £512,000 to £1.7 million, on turnover of £9.8 million, against £5 million.

Readicut acquires Drake for £11m

By John Bell, City Editor

Readicut International, the fast-growing textiles to carpets group, is moving deeper into fibre manufacture with the £11.25 million purchase of Drake.

The proposed acquisition will complement Readicut's fibres producer, Plasticisers, and it will not lead to any dilution of Readicut's earnings per share, the company says.

The acquisition is to be financed by the issue of 27.4 million Readicut shares - 21 per cent of the group's enlarged capital. Drake is a 65 per cent owned subsidiary of F Drake and Co, which is owned by the Haigh family.

The balance is held by Drake directors and the estate of a former director, Mr J

Hoyle, who owned 10 per cent. Readicut is paying £1.25 million cash for the Hoyle holding.

Drake made profits of £2.33 million on sales of £14.48 million in the year to August 31. Net assets were £3.28 million, including £1.3 million in cash.

Almost 21 million of the new Readicut shares have been conditionally placed with institutional investors at 40p a share by Schroder, the merchant bank. Existing Readicut holders will have the right to purchase new shares at 40p up to a limit of 10 new shares for every 40 held.

The acquisition is subject to shareholders' approval at an extraordinary general meeting on December 12.

Foreign investment in UK remains buoyant

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Foreign investment in Britain has remained buoyant so far this year but the average size of projects has fallen.

The Invest in Britain Bureau said yesterday that in the first nine months of this year there were 225 investment decisions by overseas companies, an 11 per cent increase. These projects will create 10,620 new jobs and safeguard 7047.

The US remained the biggest investor and accounted for 131 of the projects.

Until three months ago, 1986 did not look as if it would be a very good year for inward investment, but a number of decisions over the summer months should mean this is the fourth successive year of record investment. Last year the IBB recorded 305 projects valued at about £3 billion.

Trump card in the Burton suit

Sir Ralph Halpern, foremost of a nation of shopkeepers, has turned round the Burton Group and become the first British executive to be paid more than £1 million a year



Working out, pumping iron, running and an unqualified sense of purpose in life give Sir Ralph Halpern a springy, faintly vulpine air. He looks his age - 48 - but in a way that suggests he will never look any older. He collects Rolex watches and wears a mighty gold signet ring and cufflinks flamboyantly engraved with his initials. He wants to transform the destiny of postwar Britain. Last week, he announced that Burton Group made almost £150 million pretax profit in the year to August 31, results that took his pay package over £1 million, making him Britain's highest-paid director.

Halpern is the most startling of the new breed of high street shopkeepers: startling because he has spent almost his entire career working his way up through the management structure of a single company, emerging as its boss just in time to stop the whole operation going bust. Burton, with its attached snooker halls and cheap suits for the working man, had nowhere to go in the Sixties and Seventies.

Montague Burton's combination of hundreds of outlets selling the products of the biggest menswear manufacturing operation in the world made some sense until the early 1960s. Austerity had made people grateful to be able to buy respectable clothes at a reasonable price. But with the advent of greater prosperity, style took over from value for money. Marketing became the key skill and vast manufacturing plants crippled the company's ability to react to market changes.

By 1978, when Halpern moved into the head office, Burton had failed to find a solution. In 1977 losses had reached £13 million and only major surgery offered hope. The one bright spot was Top Shop, the old dinosaur's noble bid for the youth market. And Top Shop belonged to Halpern.

Born to an Austrian family, he is the son of a successful entrepreneur in pre-war Vienna. The family came to England as prospects for Jews in the Nazi Austria deteriorated, and

Ralph was born in 1938. He left school at 18 to join the Lewis's store group, becoming a trainee at Selfridge's.

"I got very involved with the shop and the whole social scene. But I realized pretty quickly that it would take years for me to make any kind of impact in a company that size."

He looked for a smaller company with "clearer perspectives" but made a rare and spectacular mistake. He joined the Peter Robinson group without realizing it was owned by Burton. That was exactly 25 years ago.

Top Shop had begun as an addition inside Peter Robinson shops and was reasonably successful. Halpern identified it as the only genuinely market-led part of the operation.

He turned Top Shop into a separate high street store, beginning in Croydon in 1970, where one woman picked her way through the rubble to buy a dress. The shop was not actually open, but Halpern took her money and gave her change from his own pocket. One of her pound notes is now framed in his

office. The new Top Shop made a million in its first year.

During the gallant Burton failures to shrug off its unhappy legacy in the 1970s, he rose and in 1978 he made the top. The headlines slowly changed, from stories about redundancies, retrenchments and roads to recovery, Burton became a stock market darling.

Halpern was de-risking for all he was worth, conscious that he was vulnerable at every level to the riskiest area of all - that of popular taste. But he constantly pursued caution, anticipating every disaster.

That way all the risk was concentrated in the initial decision - in taking on Top Shop, then Burton, then acquiring Dorothy Perkins, creating Top Man, Principles and, last year, most spectacularly of all, taking over Debenhams for £560 million in a classic battle.

"I was as petrified as I was in 1978. I was in exactly the same situation as I was then. My career was at risk and so was the wealth of all our shareholders. But you can't be 100 per cent cautious 100 per cent of the time - that way you go down the drain."

Debenhams took the group's sales area from 2.5 million square feet to 7.5 million. The tactics of the takeover revealed Halpern as somewhat over-aggressive in City terms. But, just over a year down the line, with the help of some disposals and an ingenious property refinancing deal, it looks as though the de-risking procedure has worked.

And that, finally, is what it is all

about. The head offices are flawlessly restored and random playfulness is hard to find - even the toy boat on Halpern's mantelpiece has a rigorous logic. It was presented to him by staff during the Debenhams battle on the basis that all the other bidders seemed to have yachts so they felt he should too.

Similarly he guards the privacy of his personal life. He has a house near the office and another in Surrey, a wife, Joan, who is a JP and an 18-year-old daughter, Jenny, but that is about as far as he will go.

If he was American, he says, he would not feel the need to explain himself. But here suspicion of wealth and capitalism is so entrenched he feels obliged to adopt a public role to proselytize on behalf of entrepreneurs and wealth creation. He has extended his belief in incentives throughout the group, including - and he makes no bones about this - to himself. With bonuses, Burton paid him £342,000 last year.

"I'm totally practical," he announces in response to a philosophical inquiry. "I believe in God and I believe in right and wrong and I believe what I am doing is right for me and right for the people who work for me." It is a homespun, uncomplicated statement from an overwhelming, narcissistic and slightly claustrophobic man; his philosophy, unadorned by self-doubt or introspection, could well have come from the lips of a Reagan or a Thatcher.

Certainly he is at one with his staff in the basement gym, where a computer calculates the relative fitness of all the employees. Halpern describes himself as the fittest man on the board; City analysts, not to mention shareholders, will doubtless reflect today that the description applies in more ways than one.

Bryan Appleyard
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COMPANY NEWS

● **UNILOCK HOLDINGS:** Interim dividend (1p) for the six months to September 27. Figures in £000. Turnover 10,733 (9,345), trading profit on ordinary activities before tax 902 (801), tax 315 (328), earnings per share 3.46p (3.01p). The move of the company's corporate head office to Haywards Heath is now complete. Sound progress has been made during this half year and the chairman anticipates another year of solid growth.

● **PROPERTY PARTNERSHIPS:** Figures in £000s for the six months to September 30. Interim 3p (2.5p). Gross rental income from investment properties was 533 (466). Pretax profit was 715 (593). Tax was 250 (237). Earnings per share were 5.7p (6.7p).

● **PACER SYSTEMS:** An agreement has been signed for the acquisition of Signal Processing Systems of Massachusetts, for \$340,000 (£386,000). The unaudited management accounts for the year to October 3 show turnover of \$917,000 and a pre-tax loss of \$37,618.

● **PERSONAL ASSETS TRUST:** Figures for 6 months to October 31 in £000. Total income was 132 (94), revenue before tax 64 (38), tax 19 (21), earnings per share 0.30p (0.11p). Net income for the first 6 months should not be taken as an indication of the full year's results. The company values its unquoted portfolio on a conservative basis. Shares 41½p up 1p.

More company news is on page 28

● **CLUFF OIL HOLDINGS:** The company's subsidiary Cluff Mineral Exploration (Milebury) has made a second gold discovery at Bindura. The new deposit, which is to be known as Freda, lies adjacent to the previously reported Rebecca discovery and exploration indicates a resource of about 51,000oz of gold. The re-evaluation of the Rebecca discovery has increased the size of this resource, which is calculated to contain about 242,000oz. The total gold contained in both Freda and Rebecca is estimated to be 293,000oz. Recent drilling at Rebecca below 150 metres provides significant potential for underground mining.

● **LISTER:** The company is to pay an interim dividend on January 23 of 0.5p (nil) for the half year to September 27. With figures in £000: turnover 23,776 (20,062), profit before tax 1,254 (607), tax 249 (65), minorities 2 (2), extraordinary credit 398 (nil), earnings per share 6.03p (3.23p). The board reports good progress in all divisions and indications for the next six months are encouraging and point to a healthy profit for the full year.

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New life for gold shares in Sydney

A new vehicle for investing in Australian gold-mining shares is taking shape in Sydney, making it easier for foreign individuals and institutions to benefit from the country's recent gold boom.

A leading local stockbroker is forming an investment company that will buy shares solely in Australian gold-mining companies, according to financial sources in Sydney.

The new company, which should be launched early next year, will operate on lines similar to ASA, the long-established American investment company which invests in South African gold-mining companies and their parent conglomerates.

The investment company, which will resemble a British investment trust, is expected to have initial paid-up capital of about \$200 million (\$91 million) and should help to overcome the problems which deter foreign investors from buying into the Australian gold market.

The main drawback to investing "Down Under" is that many Australian gold companies have very small capitalizations, so that a large share order abroad can have a marked effect on share prices.

Of the 120 or so producers quoted on Australian stock exchanges, at least 30 have market capitalizations of less than \$50 million (\$7 million), which makes it difficult to buy at the market rate or to sell without bringing the price down.

The total Australian gold-mining market capitalization of about \$85 billion is less than the combined market worth of De Beers and Anglo American, two of South Africa's largest producers.

While the 40 South African mines are covered in exhaustive detail by their own quarterly reports and scrutiny by the mining Press and analysts, foreign fund managers find it difficult to keep track of what the ever-increasing number of tiny Australian producers are doing. And, Australian mines are scattered in remote locations across the country, making the flow of information even harder.

The new company's backers hope that foreign investors will feel more comfortable buying into Australian mines knowing that a local firm is scrutinizing the investments and that funds can be withdrawn without disturbing the market too much.

Local brokers report that foreign interest has grown this year, due to the rising bullion price, greater awareness of Australia as a leading gold producer and, particularly in the US, expanding overseas investing in South Africa.

Sydney stockbrokers point out that in spite of a falling price in the Australian gold share market since May, local mines still present good value.

"The price-earnings ratios are much lower than Canadian producers and about the same as South African mines without the obvious problems," one senior analyst said.

Local investors were drawn to the mines as the Australian dollar plunged to about US\$66, producing a gold price in local terms of almost \$450 an ounce, the highest for six years, while overseas interest has been boosted by the relative stability of the Australian dollar since the monetary budget in August.

The changing picture of a strengthening gold-mining industry, the subject of an official inquiry, has also diminished.

The rising Australian dollar and better refining techniques have also caused a continuing increase in the country's gold output, with some producers re-forecasting sales targets that have been left untouched since the 1980s. Some brokers expect production, which has grown by 1.5 million ounces over the last five years, to double again by 1988.

Richard Lander

RECENT ISSUES

ISSUES	25/11	24/11	23/11
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
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Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES

ISSUES	25/11	24/11	23/11
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
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Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
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Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2
Black & Veatch (250p)	232 1/2	232 1/2	232 1/2

Standard Chartered shares leap 27p in heavy buying

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Shares of Standard Chartered, the international banking group, stood out from the crowd yesterday on suggestions that another stake-building exercise was under way.

More than £40 million was added to the group's stock market value as the shares surged 27p to 833p.

The wealthy Malaysian businessman, Tan Sri Khoo Teck Phai, one of three white knights who helped rescue Standard from the clutches of Lloyds Bank earlier this year, is reckoned to have been trying to add to his holding.

On Monday Tan Sri Khoo announced that he had raised his stake in Standard to 9.77 million shares, or 6.2 per cent. Last week he agreed to swap his near 30 per cent stake in Eco International, the money manager, for shares in Mr John Gurney's British & Commonwealth Shipping after it made an agreed bid.

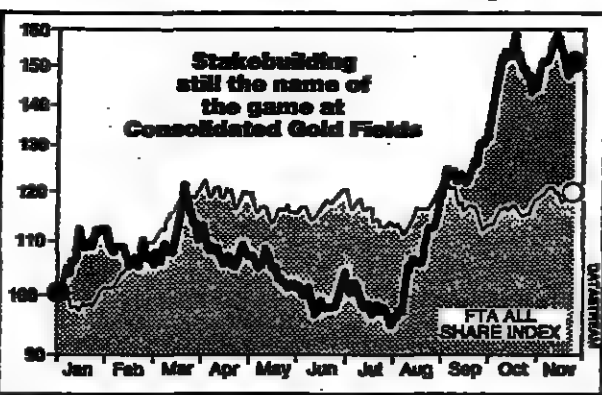
WSI Holdings, the specialist travel operator, is still winning friends in the City. Last week it announced pre-tax profits of £3.1 million for the 17 months to August, and it looks capable of even better profits in the current year. L. Messel, the broker, is forecasting almost £4 million. The shares slipped 1p to 146p.

But in the Far East Tan Sri Khoo has become embroiled in a £400 million banking case with the National Bank of Brunei. His eldest son, Khoo Ban Hock, has appeared in court, charged with conspiracy to defraud the National Bank of Brunei and with false accounting.

Dealers in London reported heavy turnover of Standard shares yesterday, with one leading broker proving to be an aggressive buyer.

The rest of the equity market spent a lacklustre day. Turnover was minimal and prices were left to drift.

An early attempt at a rally on the back of the trade figures soon ran out of steam with investors firmly entrenched on the sidelines. Many were



too busy filling out their application forms for British Gas to worry about what was going on in the market.

The FT 30-share index finished at its lowest point of the day, 122.2 down at 1270.4. The FT-SE 100 closed 17.2 down at 1,619.3.

Government securities spent a nervous session, opening with losses ranging to 2 1/2p. They recovered after the trade figures, but began to drift at the close as the pound lost ground against the dollar on the foreign exchange market, and they ended 1/4p lower.

British, down 6p at 153p on oil price worries, could go better when trading resumes today. Mr David Walker, chief executive, met the London Oil Analysts' Group yesterday and made a favourable impression. He says that estimates of \$1.60 a barrel on Britain's proven reserves is "completely unrealistic." He expects the figure to be sharply upgraded.

Kennedy Brookes, the Wheeler and Mario & Franco restaurant group, has sold its entire holding in Goldsmiths Group, the retail jeweller, and it appears to have made a reasonable profit on the deal.

About 1.1 million shares (7.5 per cent) belonging to Kennedy Brookes went through the market yesterday at 250p and were quickly snapped up by a mystery bidder.

Kennedy announced on Friday that it had bought a 4.4 per cent stake in Goldsmiths and it is believed to have paid 230p a share. Talk that Kennedy Brookes had bought the stake in Goldsmiths to ward off

Barrick, capitalized at Canadian \$450 million (\$229 million), could not afford to bid for Consolidated on its own, and any consortium bid would have to have the approval of South Africa's Anglo-American which, through its foreign investment arm, Minorco, owns 28.27 per cent.

Cable and Wireless, the electronics and telecommunications group, slipped 12p to 320p after a meeting on Monday between Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Karasawa, Japan's minister of posts and telecommunications.

But fears in the market that the company had been effectively refused its application for a licence to compete against KDD, the Japanese telecommunications authority which is being deregulated, were refuted by Cable & Wireless yesterday in a statement.

Mr Karasawa suggested that IDC, the consortium in which Cable and Wireless has a 20 per cent stake, should merge with its rival bidder for the licence, ITI, arguing that no industrialized nation has an international telecommunications company which has foreign participation. His suggested merger would reduce the Cable and Wireless interest.

But, despite the market reaction, Cable and Wireless suggested were "nothing new."

Shares in London International, the Royal Worcester and Drexel company, firmed 1 1/2p to 237 1/2p after a day of trading in American depositary receipts on the US over-the-counter market. ADRs will make the stock more readily available to the American investment market where there has been a rise.

Some market men agree. Mr Mark Loveland, speaking for the electronics team at Rowe & Pitman, the broker, said: "It is simply a restatement of the minister's position and nothing has changed our view about the strength of the Cable and Wireless consortium."

Mr Loveland said that the shares were trading at a 6 per cent premium to the market when they should be at a 20 per cent premium - at around 360p.

"We think the stock is cheap at these levels and we have been buyers," he said.

As for the stock, it was a visit by Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker.

COMPANY NEWS

BROWN & TAYLOR - The company has acquired the business, stock and equipment of the textile division of the British and General Textile Company from the liquidators for £1,550,000 in cash.

BORLAND INTERNATIONAL - For the six months to September 30 with figures in £000: sales and royalties income 14,372 (\$9,678), total costs and expenses 11,759 (\$7,493), operating profit 2,613 (\$1,885), interest (net) 372 (\$58), gain on foreign currency transactions 162 (\$10), profit before tax 3,447 (\$2,433), tax 1,313 (\$963), earnings per share 4 cents (3.2 cents), fully diluted earnings per share 3.5 cents (3.0 cents).

FR LLOYD HOLDINGS - For the half year to September 27 an interim dividend of 1p (1p) will be paid on January 5. With figures in £000: external

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Share prices were mixed as blue chips inched higher, but the market continued in a wait with Limited Incorporated making an offer for Carter Hawley Hale.

At one stage, the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 0.71 to 1,906.78 as falls led advances by a slight margin on 28 million shares.

Retail shares rose sharply while weak durable goods provided some lift.

Exchange hit by Smith exit

By Cliff Feltman

The Stock Exchange was last night bracing itself for a blow to its future with the imminent withdrawal from the trading floor of Smith New Court, its leading market-maker.

As foreshadowed in *The Times* several weeks ago, the firm is due to transfer all its floor dealers to its own electronic trading room early next year.

The decision follows a review of the trading pattern by Mr Tony Lewis, the chairman of Smith New Court, and his senior colleagues.

They found that while there was no lack of business, their employees on the floor were less than happy with operating a personal business while maintaining a close view on the prices screens.

The move signals an abrupt policy change at Smith New Court, which was formed when Smith Bros, a leading equity market-maker, and Scott Gifford, a specialist institutional equity stockbroker, merged.

Mercury Securities, one of the largest of the new financial conglomerates formed before Big Bang, has already withdrawn all but a few dealers. And Barclays de Zoete Wedd has switched all trading in alpha and beta stocks from the floor to its new £18 million dealing room but maintains a presence to handle trades in smaller issues.

There is a realization that the life of the Stock Exchange floor is limited. The people on the floor feel as if they are out on a limb, said a spokesman. No decision has been taken to withdraw activities altogether. The Exchange believes the space vacated on the floor by the market-makers will be snapped up by the mushrooming market in traded options.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Chancellor strikes invisible gold

The story so far: our intrepid hero, one Nigel Lawson, finds himself plunging towards the rapids. The canoe is awash with money, sterling is leaking out fast and danger threatens. The crowd on the banks grins its teeth, or smiles, depending on whether it is long or short of the currency. One more disastrous set of trade figures and all could be lost.

But it is only a dream, or a nightmare. The balance of payments was never really in trouble. Hidden treasure, freshly dug, has added lustre to the October trade figures. Another large current account deficit would have proved highly damaging for the pound and the Chancellor's hopes of keeping interest rates at 11 per cent - perhaps damaging the British Gas sale in the process. What better moment for the statisticians to come up with another £300 million a month of invisibles?

To be fair, there are reasons why Britain's invisibles surplus is expected to increase. Since the end of June the pound has lost more than 10 per cent of its value and devaluation always has a speedier and more direct impact on invisible earnings than on trade in goods. A fall in the pound automatically increases the sterling return on a British investment in West Germany or the United States. As well as this, Britain's monthly European Community Budget abatement has increased. It is now worth £100 million a month, compared with a monthly figure of £75 million earlier in the year. The timing and size of the adjustment, however, might make a saint suspicious.

Whitehall statisticians could not offer any detailed reasons yesterday for the upward revision of the third quarter invisibles surplus to £800 million a month. The third quarter figures have not yet been fully worked through. But confidence is a fine thing. Not only is the July-September invisibles surplus revised by £200 million a month, but the estimate of the fourth quarter surplus has been lifted by even more, to £900 million a month. This, conveniently, was just enough to push the current account into surplus, by only £65 million.

Neither sterling, down 0.3 on the index to 67.9 yesterday, despite some helpful dollar weakness, nor gilts was convinced. The gilts market initially rose on the announcement of the current account surplus but then fell back after examining the details.

The details are fairly gory. The trade deficit on manufactures widened last month to £872 million. In the past four months, Britain has run a deficit on manufactures of nearly £3 billion.

Treasury officials were at pains to point out that in the latest three months, imports of capital goods were far stronger than imports of consumer

goods. All that tells us is that Britain's lack of competitiveness is fairly widely spread.

There was nothing in yesterday's figures to take sterling off the "highly vulnerable" list. Furthermore, a weaker oil price is in the wind - something which spells good news for West Germany, Japan and the United States but trouble for the British payments and budget outlook. Share and bond markets are reflecting the oil prospect, firming in New York and Frankfurt but making no progress in London.

The Chancellor may soon find himself back in his canoe.

Underwriting worries

The Bank of England's muted instruction to banks not to overdo their underwriting of British Gas is formally an isolated ruling for an isolated occasion - if only because its discussions are still going on over the general paper about large exposures by banks.

As it happens, the discussion document relates only to individual exposures and the overall underwriting rule is certainly likely to stand until the exposure rules are sorted out. It offers an intriguing pointer to the way things are going.

Underwriting has until now been seen almost as an exception to the general banking rules of prudence. It has proved a method for merchant banks in particular to gear up their operations to an unusual level in one particular area.

It also questions the underwriting of huge takeover bids by merchant banks for short periods pending sub-underwriting round the market. The Bank's worries are justified, for the supervising authority has to look beyond today's fair weather to the storms that perennially follow. But any such rules will need to be judged on two different tests - their effects on the total underwriting capacity of the market and on the competitive position of smaller merchant bank groups compared with the giants.

On a global basis, restrictions on the exposure of any one bank are unlikely to affect London's total capacity significantly.

When it comes to flexibility, however, the story could look different. If only the likes of Barclays, Natwest, Nomura, Citicorp and Deutsche Bank can give an immediate yes, they will have an even stronger competitive advantage and the general speed of movement might be restricted.

That of itself might seem quite a useful backdoor way of controlling the excesses of mergers, but would do so at the expense of the London financial services industry as a whole.

In practice, restrictions are more likely to accelerate the trend to fixed-underwriting syndicates.

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1982/83

First half:

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tax £73.9mEarnings per
share 7.4pDividends per
share 2.2p

A1

1983/84

First half:

Profit before
tax £90.5mEarnings per
share 8.7pDividends per
share 2.42p

Allied

1984/85

First half:

Profit before
tax £100.8mEarnings per
share 8.8pDividends per
share 2.6p

Allied-L

1985/86

First half:

Profit before
tax £122.6mEarnings per
share 11.2pDividends per
share 3.25p

Allied-Lyons!

1986/87

First half:*

Profit before
tax £148mEarnings per
share 14.4pDividends per
share 3.9p

Forget all that gas, here's a public company that's been successful for years.

1986/87 First half: * profit before tax up 20.7%, earnings per share up 28.6%, dividends per share up 20.0%.

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Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Color as on card
1	Tibbery Group	Building Roads	
2	Stockdale	Industrial S-Z	
3	Lea	Motors/Aircraft	
4	Widdowson Holdings	Food	
5	Arm Energy	Oil	
6	Midwater	Leisure	
7	Loe & Elin Ltd	Property	
8	Dymco (UK)	Industrial A-D	
9	Isaco	Oil	
10	Tower Kennedy	Overseas Trade	
11	Independent	Newspapers	
12	Alberdon Group	Building Roads	
13	Pile Induser	Industrial S-Z	
14	Johns (Group)	Drapery Stores	
15	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Finance	
16	Brinsford Wharfedale	Industrial S-Z	
17	Leeds	Textiles	
18	Bradford	Property	
19	Bentley	Industrial A-D	
20	Aut New Z	Banking/Finance	
21	Goring Kerr	Industrial S-Z	
22	Odonics	Electricals	
23	SNIA RPD	Chemicals/Pharm	
24	Mercury Int	Banking/Finance	
25	Bibby (UK)	Industrial A-D	
26	Charters 'A'	Drapery Stores	
27	Enfield House	Industrial S-Z	
28	North Finance	Industrial S-Z	
29	Medway	Property	
30	Tynall	Electricals	
31	Schneider	Banking/Finance	
32	Whitworth	Industrial S-Z	
33	Brook Hill	Industrial A-D	
34	UEI	Electricals	
35	Appledore	Industrial A-D	
36	Cater Allen	Banking/Finance	
37	Alumina	Industrial A-D	
38	Chamberlain Pl	Industrial A-D	
39	Beale (UK)	Textiles	
40	Lyles (UK)	Textiles	
41	Jaguar	Motors/Aircraft	
42	Red Executive	Industrial S-Z	
43	Tipton	Shipping	
44	Tankerships	Textiles	

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

UNDATED

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

INDEX LINKED

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities in retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on Monday. Dealings end December 5. Closing day December 8. Settlement day December 15. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 3pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

BREWERIES

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

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High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

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High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

PROPERTY

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

SHIPPING

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

SHOES AND LEATHER

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

TEXTILES

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

TOBACCO

High	Low	Bank	7 Day	14 Day

© Ex Dividend: Ex Dividend is the amount of dividend paid to shareholders on the day of the dividend. It is the amount of dividend paid to shareholders on the day of the dividend. It is the amount of dividend paid to shareholders on the day of the dividend.

Brazilians head for new coffee crisis

Alfenas, Brazil, (Reuter) - Abnormally dry weather in the coffee-growing regions of Brazil has increased fears of a second disastrous harvest.

Growers in the southern state of Minas Gerais, where some of the country's finest coffees are grown, said trees were starting to show signs of the drought conditions.

Although trees had shown some recovery after the 1985 drought, the fresh bout of dry weather and the intense heat, was beginning to cause fruit buds to yellow and fall.

"Every day without rain means a further drop in the crop," a buyer for a big exporting company in the region said.

Rainfall so far this year is between 14 and 16 inches below normal.

A seven-month drought in 1985 devastated the country's harvest. Brazil produced only 11.2 million bags of 132 pounds in 1985 - one-third of the 30 million bags produced in 1984.

The 1985 drought also damaged Brazil's chances of whitening away its large foreign borrowing and prompted the country to buy about 600,000 bags, or 36,000 tonnes, of coffee in London in September.

Confusion about whether Brazil, the world's largest coffee grower and exporter, would ship the tonnage home or resell it in London has seen world coffee prices tumble.

At present, coffee is selling for about \$1.50 a pound, compared with more than \$2 earlier in the year and about \$1.80 in September.

Analysts had said the original reason for buying 600,000 bags of coffee in London may have been to satisfy avid domestic coffee-drinkers and free better grades for export.

But the government, which was re-elected recently, may have delayed shipping during the politically sensitive election period because it did not want to be seen importing one of the country's most important exports.

Traders in Europe said yesterday that Brazil was likely to start importing the coffee bought in Europe soon.

Boesky likely to be sued for \$300 million damages

From Bailey Morris Washington

FMC Corporation has become the first of an expected wave of large corporations to indicate that it may sue Mr Ivan F Boesky for damages, estimated at more than \$300 million (£214 million), in response to the insider-trading case.

Company officials confirmed yesterday they were considering a suit against Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, announced a sweeping review of US insider-trading laws to be conducted by the White House Cabinet Council on Economic Policy.

The council will scrutinize closely not only insider-trading laws but regulations governing takeovers and the scope of authority exercised by the US Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) and other agencies.

Mr Baker said he hoped to avert a "stampede or rush to judgment" until completion



Ivan Boesky: said to have made profits of \$200 million

of the cabinet investigation and the present investigations by US Congressional officials. The announcement came on a day in which the SEC denied a report in the *Wall Street Journal* that Mr Boesky earned profits of more than \$200 million from insider trading tips, much more than the \$50 million reported by the agency.

Ms Mary McCue, an SEC spokeswoman, said: "We dispute the *Journal* story. The estimate is not borne out by the facts and is way too high."

Wall Street officials estimated that during the past week, the arbitrage community had made losses calculated at \$1 billion because of a sharp drop in the value of takeover-related shares.

Analysts said the abrupt halt to Revlon Group's \$4.12 billion hostile bid for Gillette Company, through a \$558 million buy-back agreement, dampened further the market for takeover shares.

"In the post-Boesky atmosphere, takeovers are under intense pressure," a top official of First Boston Corporation said.

Officials said Revlon would not have abandoned the takeover offer if it had not been relying on Drexel Burnham Lambert to raise funds for the hostile bid.

The decision fuelled reports that Wall Street's arbitrageurs had suffered their worst losses in the history of the business. Speculation grew that Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith had been particularly hard hit, losing up to \$60 million. But Mr James Flynn, a company spokesman, said the estimates were too high. He said Merrill Lynch had "suffered losses in the past 10 days like everyone else" but added that the losses were less than \$20 million.

FMC Corporation was named by the SEC as one of the targets of Mr Boesky's insider-trading scheme. It said he bought shares based on information supplied by an investment banker charged in an earlier insider-trading investigation.

The trading caused FMC's shares to jump in price, costing the company a reported \$360 million before it announced a \$2 billion capital restructuring plan.

COMPANY NEWS

● **CENTURY OILS GROUP:** A dividend of 1.6p (1.5p) will be paid for the half year to September 30 on January 30. With figures in £000: turnover 45,580 (44,371), raw materials and operating costs 42,173 (41,054), other income 70 (56), interest payable and similar charges 933 (865), profit before tax 2,544 (2,508), tax 857 (1,080), minority interests 57 (51) earnings per share 6.64p (5.61p).

● **LEIGH INTERESTS:** For the half year to September 30 an interim dividend of 1.4p (1.3p) is to be paid on January 13. With figures in £000: sales 20,734 (19,342), pretax profit 855 (720), tax 299 (288), earnings per share 3.1p (3.0p).

● **CHASE CORPORATION:** The company is to pay an interim dividend of four cents per share on March 20 for the half year to September 30. With figures in \$000: profit 40,979 (17,563), after paying tax of 7,137 (7,334). The profit includes an equity share of associated companies profits after tax of 11,426 (702).

● **ICI:** The boards of ICI and Scottish Agricultural Industries (SAI) have reached agreement on the terms for the acquisition of SAI, beyond the £276,687 ordinary shares ICI owns already.

● **JOHN J LEES:** The company has acquired the capital of Vitmix, the patisserie. Vitmix achieved turnover of £270,141 and profit before tax of £1,094 in the six months to September 30.

● **CARROLL INDUSTRIES:** Figures for the year to September 30 in £000. Final dividend was 4.7p, making 7.5p (7p). Group sales were 285,360 (276,831), pretax profit was 13,032 (12,710), tax was 2,250 (2,345) and profit after tax was 10,782 (10,365). Earnings per share were 15.0p (14.4p). Dividend payable on February 9.

● **NZL CORPORATION:** The value of bonus shares to be allotted in lieu of dividend in respect of the announced interim dividend is NZ\$1,937 (70p) share.

● **THE UNITED BREWERIES:** Figures in Danish kroner millions for the year to September 30. Net turnover was 9,076 (8,599), profit before tax was 748 (673) and profit after tax was 375 (325).

● **BRISTOL CHANNEL SHIP REPAIRERS:** CH Bailey, which owns 45 per cent of BCRS, is involved in talks that may lead to the sale of the whole of CH Bailey's holding in BCRS.

● **BSS:** The acquisition of Manor has been completed and the associated placing and clawback offer to shareholders have become unconditional.

APPOINTMENTS

Savage Group: Mr Don Wightman becomes group marketing director.

Anglian Water Authority: Mr Andrew Semple is made managing director.

United Guarantee (Holdings): Mr Richard Greenwood joins the board.

British Linen Fund Managers: Mr James Miller becomes chairman.

Rossmore Warwick: Sir Alan Veale is made chairman. Godfrey Davis Rent-A-Unit: Mr Derek Harwell becomes managing director.

Wimpey Construction UK: Mr David Horner is made marketing director.

Moore Stephens: Mr Terry Newman becomes a partner. Manufacturers Hanover Trust: Mr Gordon Resouldson is made vice-president.

Commercial Union Trust Managers: Mrs See Coomber becomes a director.

Valin Pollen International: Mr Tom Martinejo becomes group international director. Gee/Rosen Organisation: Mr Paul Rooke joins the board.

Sealink British Ferries: Mr Christopher Garnett is made a



Christopher Garnett

director of the European sector and joins the Hoverspeed board.

Megastat: Mr Brian North has become a non-executive director.

Lattice Logic: Mr David Simpson becomes chairman. Raci-BCC: Mr J A D Timms is deputy chairman and Mr David Peake managing director.

Raci-BCC and Raci Carlin.

Bloomsbury Publishing: Mr Nigel Batt becomes finance director.

No injunction against strike for third party

Barrett & Baird (Wholesale) Ltd and Others v Institution of Professional Civil Servants and Others

Before Mr Justice Henry (Judgment November 17)

Although an employee who went on strike in furtherance of a trade dispute with his employer might be liable in tort to a third party injured by his breach of contract, injunctive relief to prevent a union calling him out on strike would not be granted on that ground in the absence of any intention to injure the third party.

Mr Justice Henry so stated in the Queen's Bench Division, sitting in Birmingham, refusing an application by the nine plaintiffs, members of the Association of British Absentee Owed dispute, against the defendants, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants and their negotiating secretary, Mr Joseph Duckworth, from interfering with the business of the plaintiffs by taking or inducing strike action.

Mr P. A. Goulding for the plaintiffs, Mr S. C. Rubin for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE HENRY said that the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) had been set up under the Agriculture Act 1967 to help maintain guaranteed prices for livestock.

After Britain joined the European Community, the MLC also performed the delegated functions of the Intervention Board for Agricultural Products (IBAP) which had been created to administer subsidies under the common agricultural policy.

The MLC employed 630 staff, stock officers, based at private-sector abattoirs all over the country, who carried out the certification procedures necessary to obtain subsidies and export meat.

The abattoirs were highly trained, skilled and experienced. In pursuit of their claim for better pay, their union, the IPCS, called a one-day lightning strike.

The plaintiffs then applied for an injunction to prevent further threatened strikes.

By calling on the staff officers, the union were clearly inducing the prevention of the due performance by the plaintiffs of their various contracts with producers, retailers and exporters.

But that tortious action was rendered not actionable by the combination of section 13(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 and section 10 of the Trade Union Act 1984, because it was common ground that the strikes would be in contemplation or furtherance of the trade dispute which the

firststock officers had with their employer, the MLC.

Since it was primary industrial action, the complicated provisions of section 17 of the Employment Act 1980, outlawing secondary action, had no application.

The plaintiffs, who were not concerned in the pay dispute, had brought the proceedings simply to restore order to their business and prevent further withdrawal of labour by the firststock officers.

The legal problem confronting the plaintiffs was to find a cause of action which had not been rendered immune by section 13(1) of the 1974 Act, which read "An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable in tort on the ground only..." and then set out the specific torts in relation to which protection was given.

The use of the word "only", limiting the immunity to the torts listed, had inspired the plaintiffs and their advisers to develop so-called economic torts to which the immunity would not apply.

The plaintiffs founded their claim on three such torts:

1. Interference with the plaintiffs' trade, business or employment contracts by unlawful means, namely:

(a) the inducement or procurement of a breach by the IBAP or MLC of their statutory duty under the Agriculture Act 1967 and the European Communities Act 1972; and

(b) the actual breach by a firststock officer of his contract of employment with the MLC.

2. Interference with the plaintiffs' contracts by the same unlawful means.

3. Inducement of breach of the same statutory duties as a tort on its own.

Dealing with 1 and 2 together, the threatened strikes would undoubtedly interfere with the plaintiffs' business, but were the means lawful?

The statutory duty under (a) was to provide a proper system for the inspection and certification of live and dead stock. It was in performance of that duty that the MLC had trained and appointed the 630 firststock officers.

It was eminently arguable that that duty was owed to the plaintiffs. But it was the firststock officers, the union were clearly inducing the prevention of the due performance by the plaintiffs of their various contracts with producers, retailers and exporters.

Moreover, there was no evidence to suggest that the proposed industrial action would bring the certification system to a grinding halt. On the evidence as it stood, there was therefore no arguable case under (a) based on breach of statutory duty.

The point taken under (b) had excited academic speculation but had not previously been before the courts. If correct, its

effect would be that any employer could not sue a union's strike call without leaving himself personally open to a claim in tort by a third party whose business happened to be affected by the strike.

It meant that while union officials were covered by statutory immunity for the giving of strike instructions, those who obeyed those instructions, or faced the possibility of losing their union cards if they refused, might still be personally liable in tort.

Most strikes interfered with the business not just of the company which employed them but also of others not involved in the dispute. It was clear that strike action by the firststock officers would interfere with the plaintiffs' (1) trade or business, or (2) contracts.

The Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 declared by section 13(3) "for the avoidance of doubt" that a strike's breach of his own service contract should not be regarded as an unlawful means of furthering a dispute, but section 17(8) of the Employment Act 1980 provided that section 13(3) "shall cease to have effect".

In the circumstances, there was clearly an arguable case sufficient for interlocutory purposes, that a strike's breach of his contract of employment might be unlawful means in the present situation.

But to make an individual strike liable in tort to a third party damaged by the strike, it had to be shown that the strike's predominant purpose was injury to the plaintiff and not the furtherance of his own self-interest.

Although the union had referred with apparent satisfaction to the major disruption caused by the first one-day strike, it had not adduced any evidence before his Lordship that the purpose of the industrial action being taken was a perfectly straightforward claim for more pay.

The firststock officers were based at abattoirs nationwide, and there was no evidence of any independent, let alone predominant, desire to injure any of the plaintiffs at whose premises they worked.

In any event, by virtue of section 16 of the 1974 Act, the court was precluded from granting any injunction to prevent a breach of a contract of employment or compel an employee to attend work.

It followed that the injunction could not be made. The court was precluded from granting any injunction to prevent a breach of a contract of employment or compel an employee to attend work.

Solicitors: W. Douglas Clark, Brooks & Co, West Broadway, Glaston.

Sentencing during parole

Regan v McKinnon (William Harold)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Owen

[Reasons November 20]

A person who had been released on licence under section 60(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967, and sentenced to imprisonment in respect of another offence during the currency of the parole licence, was not entitled, under section 62(10), to be granted parole, should a sentencing court revoke that licence within one year of the revocation in respect of any sentence imposed on him.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so held when giving reasons for its order on October 24 that the revocation of the appellant's parole licence by Judge Anwyl-Davies, QC, on April 30, 1986, at Southwark Crown Court, be quashed. The appellant had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obtain property by deception and was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. The parole licence related to a sentence imposed in September 1985.

Mr Chester Berts, assigned by the Criminal Appeal Committee, for the appellant, Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that between May 1984 and January 1985 the appellant committed the offence

to which he was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment on April 30, 1986.

On September 4, 1985 he received a sentence of 22 months' imprisonment for offences committed in December 1984, and was released on licence on March 4, 1986 (which licence would have expired on August 9, 1986).

The appellant was not in breach of his parole licence when it was revoked, and the revocation was made by virtue of section 62(7) of the 1967 Act which made it clear that a court might revoke a licence within one year of a conviction, as opposed to an offence, took place during the period of parole.

It would no doubt in many cases rightly be felt to be illogical that a person should be "released on licence" in respect of one offence and at the same time be in prison in respect of another.

What was sometimes overlooked was the consequence of such revocation as provided in section 62(10) of the 1967 Act. There were two possible interpretations of the words in that subsection.

The wider construction would prevent the appellant from being granted parole within one year of the revocation in respect of any sentence imposed on him.

The narrower construction would mean that the person whose licence had been revoked could not for the period of one year be paroled again in respect

of the offence for which he was sentenced and paroled, and might be paroled in respect of any other sentence which had been imposed on him.

The court considered the subsection should be interpreted liberally and in the clear and easily understandable broader meaning that the embargo on any further parole during the one-year period was not confined to the sentence in respect of which the revoked parole licence had been imposed.

If that was likely to result in injustice, the answer was for the court not to exercise the optional power of revocation when an offender was convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, despite the apparent illogicality.

In the present case, the appellant had committed no offence while on parole, he had complied with parole conditions and it was unjust to leave the revocation standing, since the effect would be to make him ineligible for release on parole during the currency of his second term of imprisonment.

Although circumstances similar to the present case were likely to be rare, the sentencing court in deciding whether to revoke a parole licence would have two questions to decide: first, what would be the consequences of revocation in the light of section 62(10)? Second, were those consequences justified?

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Southwark.

Exchange of medical reports

Graham v Watt-Smyth and Another

Bryant v Ealing Health Authority

Foster v Meriton and Sutton Health Authority

Lead v Same

Thomas v North-West Surrey Health Authority

Hannelo v Newham Health Authority

The High Court had a discretion under Order 38, rule 38, of the Rules of the Supreme Court to order the disclosure and exchange of expert evidence in actions for personal injuries where the pleadings contained allegations of medical negligence; the express exclusion of such actions from the scope of the similar discretion conferred by Order 38, rule 37, which was headed "Expert evidence in actions for personal injuries", was not to be construed as implicitly excluding such actions from the scope of rule 38, which was headed "Expert evidence in other actions".

Mr Justice Tudor Evans so held in the Queen's Bench Division on November 24, when giving judgment in open court in six appeals heard in chambers on applications under Order 38, rule 36 for directions as to the exchange of expert evidence.

Truth-drug evidence is inadmissible in court

Fennell v Jerome Property Maintenance Ltd

Before Mr Justice Tucker (Judgment November 21)

As a matter of principle, evidence produced by the administration of a mechanically or chemically or hypnotically induced test on a witness so as to show the veracity or otherwise of that witness was not admissible in an English court of law.

Mr Justice Tucker so held in the Queen's Bench Division during the course of an interlocutory application by counsel for the plaintiff for the admission of evidence relating to truth drug tests.

Mr Richard Slove for the plaintiff, Mr Richard Davies for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that what was proposed was the questioning of a witness, a distinguished consultant, as to whether he had conducted certain tests on the plaintiff by the administering of some chemical to him which thereby disposed of his conscious will to seek to deceive.

It was not the first time that such evidence had been available to parties to litigation; it had occurred not only in civil but also criminal cases, but never had it been admitted in evidence in an English court.

His Lordship felt that there

was something inherently wrong in admitting such evidence and he would reject it. Such evidence would undermine the functions of a trial judge (His Lordship was not concerned with questions of usurping the functions of trial judges).

His Lordship distilled the thought that any mechanical or chemically or hypnotically induced test should seek to show the veracity or otherwise of any witness.

Furthermore, to adduce such evidence, even if it was favourable to the plaintiff, would have the plain result of introducing previous inconsistent statements; the law had always stood out against such statements being given in evidence.

For those reasons, the effect of such evidence, were it to be admitted, would be a distortion of the normal process of trial: see *Cross on Evidence*, 6th edition (1985) p269.

Even without the reference to *Cross*, His Lordship's own view was against the admissibility of such evidence. The ruling was confined strictly to one of principle, and did not extend to the reliability or unreliability of such evidence.

Solicitors: Somers & Co, West Ealing, Blount Paine & Co.

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Calls to the Bar are on page 18

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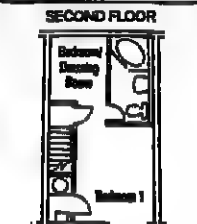
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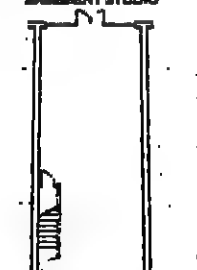
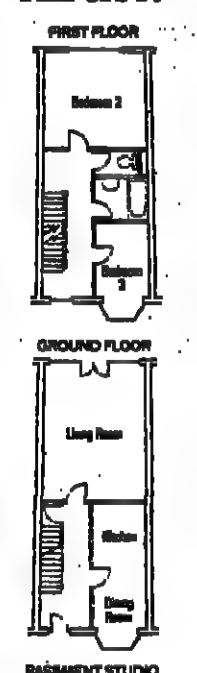
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This high tech group is world leader in its field and offers excellent prospects for the career minded. As administrative secretary in business development, you'll be at the heart of the company, liaising with European offices, organising visits, liaising with clients, organising the company's public relations and preparing budgets. Call Jim Nash 01-493 8518

MADISON RECRUITMENT
100 New Bond Street
London, W1Y 9LF

COSMETICS PA

£11,500

+ bens
An opportunity to spend as PA to a top Executive of this international beauty house. Use your shorthand and much more, arranging conferences, visiting venues and liaising with clients. Responsible for co-ordinating the company's public relations and preparing budgets. Call Jim Nash 01-493 8518

MADISON RECRUITMENT
100 New Bond Street
London, W1Y 9LF

FRENCH IN BANKING

£10,000 +

Do you have fluent French both spoken and written? A accurate typing and W.P., 100 shorthand, a good telephone manner? If so bring your mature attitude, your sense of humour and organisation and your flexibility to us and set your sights on this and many other secretarial positions at Senior Management level in all fields! (Rec. Cons.)

International Secretaries

01-585 4422

Senior Secretaries

01-469 0082

Senior Secretaries

01-629 9638

(Rec. Cons.)

ANGELA MORTIMER

West End Office

01-629 9638

(Rec. Cons.)

ANGELA MORTIMER

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(Rec. Cons.)

ANGELA MORTIMER

Hoggett Bowers

Executive Search and Selection Consultants

MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CAMBRI, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, SHEFFIELD and WIDNES

Chairman's PA/Office Services Head

West End Marketing Consultancy,
£13-15,000; Age 35-50

This marketing consultancy is a busy office of 10 consultants/managers who travel worldwide and 5 secretaries. The business operates to tight deadlines, advising and helping large numbers of clients including many major companies. Their chairman has asked us to find him an experienced professional to be the focus of the day-to-day administration. A high calibre secretary with really good organisational skills is required, able to take responsibility and with a strong and diplomatic personality. The position includes overseeing the other secretaries - helping to recruit and train and arranging workloads at peak times. As chairman's PA, you will also be a vital link between him and the other managers/consultants and you must be able to act on your own initiative. There will sometimes be out-of-hours work. Word-processing experience is required, on any system. Please apply, even if your skills are rusty, as full training can be provided.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive C.V. or telephone for a Personal History Form to: D. Venables, Hoggett Bowers plc, 1/2 Haverock Street, LONDON W1R 9WB. Ref: 480177.

Micro Support Assistant

Secretarial/Admin exp. essential

Consumers' Association, publishers of Which? magazine, are looking for someone to join their small team of specialists responsible for helping staff to get the most out of their micro-computers. The post is for a minimum of one year. Reporting to the Head of Information Centre, the successful applicant will be the main team member providing backup and training on word processing systems, and will also be required to take on an administrative and secretarial role within the team. Candidates for this post must be able to demonstrate good communication skills and an aptitude for learning and teaching computer systems. Several years secretarial/administrative experience is essential together with excellent typing speeds. Starting salary in the range £10,000-£11,500, according to experience.

Please apply with a full CV to: The Personnel Officer, Consumers' Association, 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS.

Which?

ENJOY RESPONSIBILITY?

£11,000

You'll find the new Managing Director of this well-known restaurant chain requires a PA/Secretary with a good administrative background to be in at least two shifts ahead of him. You should live in North London, own a car and be able to travel in the U.K. Excellent benefits include discount vouchers on food, drink and holidays. Skills: 100/60. Age: 25/40. Salary: £10,500. (Rec. Cons.)

01-585 4422

Senior Secretaries

01-469 0082

Senior Secretaries

01-629 9638

(Rec. Cons.)

ANGELA MORTIMER

West End Office

01-629 9638

(Rec. Cons.)

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(Rec. Cons.)

Secretary to Chief Executive

Based Knightsbridge

c. £13,000

The Chief Executive - Western Europe of PA Consulting Services, the major international management consultancy, is responsible for some 1,900 staff in 40 European offices earning £70m revenue.

He is seeking a mature and highly responsible senior secretary with a sense of humour and excellent basic skills and experience to provide a first-class and highly confidential all-round service.

Considerable initiative, tact, diplomacy and flexibility are needed in organising his office, meetings and travel arrangements and in liaising with PA directors and clients' top-level staff. A sound European language would be useful.

Salary is graded to age, experience and qualifications; benefits include LVs, BUPA and contributory pension.

Please send full CV to Sarah Wilson, Personnel Officer, PA Consulting Services, Bower House, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LJ.

PA

concept international

DO YOU HAVE:

Excellent secretarial skills (including SH)?

At least 2 years experience at Director's level?

Knowledge of word processing? Computer in a business/Advertising context?

An outgoing personality? A good manager? An efficient and organised manner? A good sense of humour?

If you can answer yes to all the above questions then perhaps the job at our West London offices as secretary to the Directors, will interest you.

If you aren't shy of hard work, you will reap the rewards a young and already successful company can offer its employees.

If the above interests you, please send your CV to:

GM Young, Concept International, 38 Porters Rd, Hammersmith, London W6 0EZ. Tel: 01-846 9550.

INVOLEMENT

c. £11,500 + benefits

A progressive PA is essential for the Deputy Chairman of a highly regarded and steadily expanding business company, to support him in his development of the business.

You will work closely with him at international director level and will be asked upon to represent him in social and business environments.

A flexible and down-to-earth approach, together with the confidence and maturity to work independently at senior level, are essential for this role. You must be prepared to take on an ever increasing responsibility.

Age: 25+ Skills: 90/60

City Office

01-600 0266

ANGELA MORTIMER

West End Office

01-629 9638

(Rec. Cons.)

ANGELA MORTIMER

West End Office

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West End Office

01-629 9638

(Rec. Cons.)

ANGELA MORTIMER

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

We talk and you listen, no.
You talk and we listen, yes.

Ask **ALFRED MARKS**

BRAND LEADER

This major British plc, a household name for many years, needs a quick-thinking Secretary with plenty of initiative to join the in-house Marketing Department. Working on some of their brand leaders as well as new products, you will help to arrange promotional events, liaise with advertising agencies and provide secretarial support. Skills 80/50 + audio. Salary £9,000-£9,500 plus excellent benefits. Age 21+.

TEMPORARY START

Many of the positions we are currently handling for City organisations are available on a temporary to permanent basis. If you are unsure of exactly what sort of job you are looking for, this method will help you avoid making a wrong decision. With good shorthand or audio skills plus WP experience, you may find your next career move is only a temporary assignment away.

SPECIALISTS FOR THE CITY
3 YEAR OLD
01-256 7261
01-256 7261

FINESSE

city city city city city city city city city city

NO DESK, NO ROUTINE c.£11,000

No two days are ever the same working for our client who, as a Director of several companies, needs an energetic secretary who can keep up with the fast pace of his varied business life. Travelling around town with him you must constantly be 2 steps ahead, often having to reschedule his time table en route from A to B. The ideal candidate will have the adaptability to change from a back-up support role on the City-based investment management side to attending meetings in sumptuous new offices in the West End. Age mid-20s, some shorthand, good typing and WP. Please ring 588 3535.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

DRAKE PERSONNEL

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT £18K Package

ARE YOU
Streetwise
Self-motivated
A Winner
Persuasive
Goal Orientated
Motivated by Money

If you have 80% of these qualities then call me to join a Recruitment Consultancy 'with a difference'.

THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU.

Call FRANK BOWEN on 01-221 5872

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

ACP ADMINISTRATIVE & CLERICAL PERSONNEL LIMITED

An interesting and secure appointment offering prospects of increased remuneration

RECEPTIONIST - SECRETARY LONDON - PARK LANE £8,000-£10,500

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY

We would like to meet receptionists, familiar with the use of word processors, aged 24-45, with poise and presence, to manage a well appointed and busy reception area. In addition to normal reception duties the successful applicant also must be prepared to learn to operate telex and facsimile machines. The ability to use initiative and flair is important. Initial salary negotiable, £8,000-£10,500 + BUPA, non contributory pension, free life assurance. Applications in strict confidence under reference RS288/TT, to the Managing Director.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CLERICAL PERSONNEL LIMITED, RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
36, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON EC2M 1LH. TELEPHONE: 01-406 3088 or 01-406 3076. TELEX: 967244. FAX: 01-256 8581

SECRETARY WBK International

Due to expansion, a vacancy has arisen for a WP Secretary. You will (with two others) provide secretarial/admin support to the Management Team in an established firm of Risk Management Consultants.

Applicants should be aged 22 or over, have excellent secretarial skills and at least two years' relevant experience. You should have a confident telephone manner and the ability to work accurately under pressure.

Duties will include typing reports/letters, arranging meetings and making travel arrangements.

Good salary, prospects and working conditions.

Applications should be made in writing, enclosing a CV to:

Mrs I. Jutton,
WBK International Ltd., 32 Seething Lane,
LONDON. EC3R 5BA

No Agencies

MAKE A CAREER IN FINANCE - UP TO £16,000

Do you have a real interest in finance and the ambition to move into research? Our client, a firm of Corporate Finance Specialists, seeks a PA/Secretary of 'A' Level/Degree calibre who has the potential to undertake research.

Working as part of a small, select team, your talent for building a rapport with top City clients and organisational flair will be developed to the full. Skills of 100/60. Age preferred 23-30. Please call 01-631 0479.

Seer Selection
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHINA CRISIS

Independent Travel Company require light minded person with marketing skills to help prepare and promote tours to China. Non-smoker. Knowledge of or enthusiasm toward China essential. Must be able to take responsibility and work on their own. Salary £9,000 + potential profit share + possible trips to China.

Please write enclosing C.V. to:

Trevor, Globe Post Ltd,
324 Kensington Park Rd, London SE11.

DRAKE PERSONNEL

IT'S A BROKER'S WORLD! £18,000 + COMMISSION

Enjoy the excitement and challenge of a new role with the dynamic and successful, growing, and expanding Financial Management Consultancy. Totally absorbing position with plenty of opportunity to develop your own initiative and organisational and communication skills. Friendly professional environment with superb benefits & prospects. Call SUE DAVIS on 01-631 0565

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Handle Recruitment

10 New Bond St, London W1
01-493 1184

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON/ THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

MEDICAL SECRETARY/ SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Required to assist in the central co-ordination of an international study of cardiovascular disease and the contraceptive pill being undertaken by the Joint Department of Community Medicine and the World Health Organisation. Applicants should have a flexible and professional approach to work. WP experience an advantage but training will be given if necessary. S/b skills also required. Salary on scale: £8432 - £9764 pa inc.

For further details please telephone Dr N. Foulter on 01-367 7050 ext. 5719 to whom full CV including the names and addresses of two referees should be sent a.s.a.p. to Department of Community Medicine, UCL/The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, 66-72 Gower Street, London WC1.

ARTS TO £10,500

The Managing Director of one of London's leading art galleries (Contemporary) needs a quick witted PA/Secretary. This is a busy job and the successful candidate will be someone who enjoys working under pressure and a varied job content. Age 24-40. Speeds 100/55.

CORRELL AND DAVIS
RECRUITMENT LTD.
35 Bruton Place W1. 01-493 7789

BRIGHT YOUNG SECRETARY

with first class skills including shorthand required for 2 Partners in Surveyors practice near Victoria. Pleasant personality, smart appearance and good speaking voice essential. Age preferred 22-26 years. 4 weeks holiday and bonus. Salary to £9,000 a year. Please forward CV to Pauline Crosby, BWS, 9 Tufon Street, London SW1P 3QB.

£13,000 + Mortgage Sub.

This exciting job waiting for a motivated, flexible, outgoing personality to assist two directors in the day-to-day running of this City based financial services company. The successful candidate will be responsible for all administrative and secretarial duties and will also be responsible for the company's mortgage sub. The successful candidate will be someone who enjoys working under pressure and a varied job content. Age 24-40. Speeds 100/55.

Dulcie Simpson
Appointments Ltd

01-409 0734

WE'RE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR RISING STARS

WATERLOO £10,500 + pa

We have a rare opportunity for an experienced Secretary to work for the Managing Director of our Corporate Finance Company, part of the 3i Group, at our pleasant offices close to Waterloo Station.

You should be educated to 'A' level standard, but preferably a graduate, and are likely to be aged between 24 and 30. You should have sound secretarial qualifications and experience, including shorthand, together with a willingness to take responsibility and work on your own initiative. Use of a word processor will be necessary and training will be given if needed.

The salary is negotiable depending on age, experience and qualifications and we offer a large range of benefits, including free lunches, non-contributory pension scheme and concessionary mortgage facilities. Prospects are first class.

Interested? Please contact Ann Goldie on 01-928 7822.

Investors in Industry plc,
91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP.
(No agencies).

3i

THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY.

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

VIRGIN GROUP PLC

PA required for Senior Executive

Full secretarial duties. Salary negotiable - company perks. Please write with full CV and details of current salary to Ref RZ.

Legal Secretary

Duties to include audio/shorthand. One years minimum commercial experience required. Salary negotiable - company perks. Please write with full CV and details of current salary to Ref SM.

Personnel Department
Virgin Group PLC
95-99 Ladbroke Grove
London, W11 1PG
(No Agencies)

DIRECTORS' SECRETARY UP TO £11,000 p.a.

We are a small private Venture Capital Company and are looking for a second secretary to work for 3 busy Directors who are frequently away from the office. The work is varied and if you would like to be part of a small team, enjoy dealing with people, are good at organising yourself and others and have good SH/Typing skills, please write with full CV to:

Durrington Corporation Ltd.
4/5 Grosvenor Place
London SW1X 7HJ

WORD PROCESSING SUPERVISOR

— good development opportunity —

We are a leading firm of solicitors with new offices near Chancery Lane.

We are looking for a confident, experienced person to supervise a large WP department. Reporting to the WP Manager, the supervisor will monitor the quality and quantity of work output, taking remedial action as necessary.

The successful candidate, aged 25 years plus, will have a minimum of 2 years proven supervisory experience in a Word Processing department plus IBM 5520, IBM Displaywriter Text Pack 4 or Displaywriter II/III experience. Legal experience preferred, but not essential.

Desired personal qualities include high energy levels and effective communication skills. Excellent salary and benefits.

Please apply to the Personnel Manager,
MACFARLANES,
10, Newchurch Street,
London EC4A 1BD.
01-831 9222

TRUST SECRETARY

Secretary required for the administration of trusts and estates. Organisation, numeracy and a capacity to write letters is essential. 'A' levels or a degree would be preferred. Salary negotiable. Applications in writing with CV to:

B. L. Middle,
1 Grosvenor Street,
London EC2V 7HN
No Agencies

DRAKE PERSONNEL

SPRINTED MARKETING £15,000 + PERKS

Join this international team and get involved in a fast growing marketing department. Every organisation has a need for a person who can help them to sell their products and services. You will be responsible for all aspects of the company's marketing and sales activities. You will be working closely with the company's sales and marketing departments. You will be responsible for all aspects of the company's marketing and sales activities. You will be working closely with the company's sales and marketing departments.

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

DESIGN COUNCIL AWARDS

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

This post offers an enthusiastic secretary the opportunity to develop both administrative and word processing skills as a member of the small team, responsible for the organisation of annual awards to publicise outstanding British design achievements.

Shorthand/typing of 80/50 wpm, a pleasant telephone manner and experience of dealing with people at a senior level are required. Previous word processing or VDU experience would be an advantage, although full training would be given.

The salary will be up to £8,600 pa, depending on qualifications and experience, plus 34 1/2 days' holiday, flextime, season ticket loans and a non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details, please Gillian Webb, Personnel Officer, on 01-639 8000 ext 4030.

An equal opportunities employer

THE DESIGN COUNCIL

31

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

TEMPORARIES CONTROLLER FOR RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY

You will be working with a small professional group of consultants.

On the one hand, you'll be looking after a team of temporaries. On the other hand, meeting clients, spending time getting to understand their business and establishing a professional relationship with them.

With all this, the ability to think quickly, yet analytically and to make astute "people" decisions is essential. You will need to have recruitment experience. You will receive an attractive salary plus bonuses. Then, it's up to you.

If you think you can organise, sell, communicate and get on well with people, then you could become part of this successful team.

Call me today,
Sharon Ollis,
Alfred Marks Recruitment Consultants,
62 Brompton Road, London, SW3
(Opposite Harrods)
Tel: 01-584 6166

Ask ALFRED MARKS

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

The Editor is looking for a cheerful, efficient SECRETARY/PA

to start in the New Year

to look after herself, the magazine and the general smooth running of the editorial department. Must have all the usual qualifications, good shorthand, plus a sense of humour and willingness to do both confidential work and be part of team.

Please write with full details including present salary and availability to:

Beverly Flower, Director of Personnel,
The National Magazine Co. Ltd.,
72 Broadwick Street,
London, W1V 2BP.

DRAKE PERSONNEL

EXEC PA ADVERTISING £18,500

The client is a large and successful advertising agency. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the company's advertising and sales activities. You will be working closely with the company's sales and marketing departments.

Call MONIKA WUESCHNER on 01-621 0405

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

CITY BLAS £13,000

Proven professional, you are required to work as a PA to the Managing Director of a leading City based financial services company. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the company's administrative and secretarial duties. You will be working closely with the company's sales and marketing departments.

Call MONIKA WUESCHNER on 01-621 0405

MASTROCK RECRUITMENT

use your FRENCH

City Executive needs bright, young Secretary. Excellent French, good English shorthand, preferably some Spanish.

£11,000 + £5 LV's + + 01 370 5066

Hendersons RECRUITMENT

PA SEC £10,500 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Highly confidential position seeking PA to a most senior and busy PA. Must possess confidence to handle VIP and media enquiries with tact and discretion. PA involvement in organising cross reference system for research project and arranging social engagements and a house party. Must be a self starter seeking responsibility and real career movement. Please phone Sarah 01-631 1929 Staffplan Rec Cons.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

PA FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN ADVERTISING & MARKETING AGENCY

Are you a mature, career-minded Secretary/PA currently working in advertising, marketing or sales promotion? Used to working long hours under pressure and considering a change of environment? If so, read on...

We are one of London's top marketing, advertising and sales promotion agencies working for an exciting range of household name clients. Our energetic Chief Executive requires a first class, career-minded Sec/PA, minimum age 28. You must have excellent secretarial skills, including WP, be able to work under extreme pressure and used to a long day! Your responsibilities will also include working for our Chairman, Lord Chalfont, and general involvement with the Agency's management systems.

This is a senior appointment and requires a person of outstanding and proven ability. In return we offer an exciting working environment, substantial salary and company car.

If you think you can meet these requirements please send CV to: Ms P Breckon, The Marketing Triangle Limited, 17 Newman Street, London W1P 3HD.



Secretary to Director C.£10,000 p.a.

We are seeking a skilled secretary (110/80 wpm) with a professional attitude to work for a functional Director at our Headquarters. His responsibilities include company pension policy worldwide, involvement with acquisitions and disposals and he is on the Board of Reed Regional Newspapers. The work is, of course, highly confidential and demands the utmost discretion.

His secretary will be expected to take charge of the smooth running of his office and handle matters responsibly during his frequent travels abroad. We are looking for a secretary used to working at senior level, who is disciplined, tidy and enjoys working under pressure. Excellent presentation and accuracy are vital. An IBM PC is used as a word processor.

Benefits include 25 days holiday a year, subsidised restaurant and season ticket loan.

If you are interested, please write enclosing your cv. to: Miss Diana Robin, Reed International PLC, Reed House, 83 Piccadilly, London W1A 1EJ.

ARE YOU A BRIGHT SPARK? to £12,000 + Exciting Benefits

If you have a flair for organising and an excellent telephone manner then the dynamic Marketing Director of this prestigious multi-national holding company needs you. Based in W1 with your own office, your responsibilities will include travel arrangements, setting up meetings and lunches with min. typing of gen correspondence. If you are 25-30, single or 80/55 plus initiative and enthusiasm you could sparkle in this position. Please call: 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A NEW NOTE £10,500

A leading merchant bank seeks a secretary to a very charming director with a good sense of humour. A busy, varied position with a junior secretary to assist you. Banking experience not needed. Benefits include a free lunch, mortgage subsidy and attractive hours 9.30-5.00. 90/50 skills and WP ability needed.

GREEN PARK £10,000+

A large famous name membership body needs a well organised secretary to their chief executive. You'll need to have a flair for organising as regular meetings have to be set up with lots of liaison with members and VIPs. Handle your own correspondence and edit a full PA role. 90/60 skills and WP ability needed. Please telephone 01 240 3531.

• Elizabeth Hunt •

Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1

Of Public Concern £10,000

Prestigious UK plc seeks secretary to Director of Public Affairs. An involving 'right-hand' role, handling confidential information, the position calls for confidence, maturity of approach and highly developed organising skills. Some senior level experience essential. Skills: 90/60. Age: 24+. Please telephone 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

BILINGUAL ADMINISTRATOR/PA (English/French) c.£12,000 2 JUNIOR BILINGUAL SECRETARIES (English/French) c.£7,500

We seek 3 capable, enthusiastic candidates to join a respected, expanding and highly professional organisation running courses in Britain for overseas students, mainly from France and USA. Excellent French and secretarial skills required, French nationals may apply.

For information and job description send detailed CV to:

The Director
Anglophile Academic Ltd
34 North End Road
London W14 0SF

BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY c.£11,500

required by small firm of chartered accountants involved in individual tax and financial affairs. Minimum of ten years' experience required. Knowledge of investment and trust work helpful and must enjoy client involvement, working to own initiative and running the office. Some audio work. Own office.

Please send C.V. to:

Mr. J.D. Nightingale
Nightingale & Associates
28 Westchester Palace Gardens
London SW1P 1PB

Hi-Energy £11,500

Superb opening for an Executive PA to the MD of this Energy Consulting Company based in lovely offices overlooking Green Park. A demanding but varied role, you will organise conferences, complicated itineraries & all the company's travel arrangements as well as providing full PA back-up. Excellent skills (110/60) and senior level experience essential. Age 26-40. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

THE WORK SHOP Admin/PA £11,000 + bonus

An excellent opening for a real 'self-starter' to join this large Management Consultants. As PA to the Senior Consultant of their Executive Research Division you will handle highly confidential projects and a constant schedule of diary/interview arrangements. Senior level experience, an excellent telephone manner, poise, style and integrity essential. Skills: 90/60. Please telephone 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants

FOOD FOR THOUGHT c.£10,500 MIN HILL

The dynamic new Chief Executive of a fast-moving restaurant chain has no-one to organise his day: do you fit the bill? Once in the hot seat you will have a finger in every pie of this well known international company. Responsibilities range from board meetings to supervision of support staff and you should have a high degree of efficiency, good presentation and skills (100/60) and senior level experience. Hard work is rewarded by a 3.30 finish on Friday! Age 25-35. Please call 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

£9,500

If you have enthusiasm, organising ability, enjoy social functions, can cope with pressure and you are a PA/Sec, then this position working for young dynamic Director is for you. Prominent Co. WC2. Phone 437-8476 or 734 3768 Rec Cons. 133 Oxford Street.

MILLER McNISH

FRENCH POLISH £13,000

Layton orientated? You must be a car owner - adaptable, lively with common sense + shorthand and WP skills, for mid 30's, easy going Financial Director of a Venerable Co. in Layton, E10. Age 25-35.

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE £10,000

Assist the Chairman's PA with board papers, organising conferences, dealing with visitors - in other words, absolute discretion in busy pressured job with a major International City Co. SH + WP.

SECRETARIES PLUS

AUDIO STAR £11,000

You are mid 20's+, mature and a good organiser. Look after the VP of a major American Banking Group who uses mainly audio, some shorthand. Mortgage subsidy, free lunch etc.

SHOW BIZ £12,000

Go-getting senior (but young) partner of West End Accountants who specialise in show biz/TV arena, who is looking for an adaptable but firm PA, 28+. Opportunity for involvement. 110+ shorthand.

MEDIA - FINANCE - ADVERTISING - SALES - PERSONNEL - MEDIA - FINANCE

Top Jobs c. £12,000

Video

It's not often that an opportunity to work in video production arises, let alone one for a graduate with a good European language and a flair with clients.

If you fit the bill so far and would like to have more information, please give us a ring.

Age 25-35

Cosmetics

This is the top PA position in this prestigious international cosmetic house. The G.M. is young, dynamic - busy. You are - confident, well-presented and able to run the office and supervise the staff. A European language would be helpful.

Skills: 100/60

HAZELL STATON
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS
8 Golden Square, London W1
Tel: 01-439 6021

MEDIA - FINANCE - ADVERTISING - SALES - PERSONNEL - MEDIA - FINANCE

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

TOP JOBS FOR TOP PEOPLE

VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS - £12,000
A revolutionary video technique is gaining ground fast in stress throughout the world and the Chief Executive of this young company urgently needs help. He wants a personal assistant with excellent secretarial skills who can cope with international liaison at the highest level and is prepared to travel. His standards are high and A levels, including one in French, are needed to match them.

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Interested? To find out more please write with full details of your background and experience to:

Barbara K. Rotterson
Senior Personnel Officer
EMI Music Limited
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This Hi-Tec Company are looking for someone with that 'little bit extra' to work in their Real Estate Dept. Dealing with people and property all over the world, you should have ambition, drive and the ability to communicate at all levels. In return they offer excellent prospects and training facilities. Skills: 80/60. Age: 21+. Please telephone 01-493 4466.

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MERRYWEATHER

PERSONNEL

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We are a large, well established firm of solicitors located near Chancery Lane in modern offices.

A confident, experienced secretary is required to assist a small Personnel department. Shorthand is not required but good typing speeds and the ability to undertake administrative responsibility are essential. The successful candidate will be 25 years plus, possess an 'O' level education (including Maths and English grade C) and will have had a minimum of 12 months experience in personnel work.

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The Personnel Manager
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Crone Corkill
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(The Ritz, The Stafford)

required by leading London Hotel Group to work in hectic marketing department. Organisational ability, general secretarial skills (not shorthand) and the ability to work under pressure essential. This is an exciting and varied position working for both PR and Sales Managers.

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 - Professional and personal service
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T.M. INTERNATIONAL
RECRUITMENT

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Several of our investment banking clients are desperately looking for top class P.A./Secretaries to start in January. You must be educated to a high standard, energetic, hard working, well presented and fast Languages useful but not essential. Good grade 'A' levels are an asset. Package includes a high salary, mortgage, bonus and overtime. Age to 28. 100/60.

Please call us for an interview until 6.30pm.

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Bilingual English-German Secretary for Marketing Company (North London) required.

The ideal applicant must be:

- ★ ambitious
- ★ reliable
- ★ determined
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- ★ self motivated
- ★ must be used to working on her own initiative.

The ideal applicant must further be able to deal with world-wide inquiries during the absence of the director.

The applicant should further be used to dictaphone, electronic typewriter, wordprocessor and telex machine.

If you are looking for a challenging job, please write with CV and references to OMR LTD, P.O. Box 232, London N6 5AH.

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This young, go-ahead Company are looking for a smart, lively person to assist their Director and his small design team. An extremely busy and pressurised position, you will organise travel arrangements, hotels, currency etc, liaise with clients and generally become totally involved in this fast moving environment. Good typing (no shorthand). Age 22+. Please telephone 01-409 1232.

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required for a very busy Estate Agents in the village. Must be an excellent typist and be able to work a frantic switchboard simultaneously. A sense of humour and ability to work under pressure essential. Salary in the region of £8,000 per annum with reviews and bonus schemes.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

When memories are taken off the ice

● In striking contrast with the uncompromisingly realistic and intensely human subjects that we have come to expect of Desmond Wilson's *The Voyage*, a strange air of unreality hangs over this week's film, *The Golden Voyage* (BBC1, 9.40). Spectacular nostalgia can have that effect, and when you add to it the element of make-believe, the poor old viewer doesn't know whether he is coming or going. It would have made more sense if the Britons whom we see making the sea crossing to the United States in commemoration of the maiden voyage of the liner Queen Mary 50 years ago, had been able to do it on board the Grand Old Lady herself. But as she is now retired, permanently moored at Long Beach, California, the voyagers who are re-living their 50-year-old memories have to do so on board the next best thing, the

CHOICE

QE2. It is a bit like flying in Concorde to celebrate the first flight by air balloon. And, in any case, by the time the QE2 passengers eventually get to tread the decks of the Queen Mary, much of the magic has worn off thanks to some iceberg that displayed a cool insensitivity to the golden wonder of the occasion. In this connection, Titanic echoes are stirred. One passenger recalls that when he told an acquaintance that he planned to book a seat for the Queen Mary's maiden voyage, he was advised to travel only on one of the French liners. Dirty they might be, with poor service, but at least there wasn't any of that nonsense about women and children first.

● Familiar only with those

Sylvester Stallone movies in which he plays the pugilist called Rocky, I went to see Stallone in *F.I.S.T.* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) with entirely the wrong expectations. Whatever the title may lead you to think, Norman Jewison's film has nothing to do with the fight game. There is much fighting in it, but not of the boxing kind. The violence in *F.I.S.T.* has to do with militant trade unionism in the Cleveland of the 1930s, and it covers the entire range, from punch-ups in the car park and heads being cracked open with clubs in street battles to truck drivers being shot to death at the wheel and trucks being blown up by fire bombs. Stallone (not God's gift to cinema, perhaps, but more sensitive an actor than you might expect, given his physical make-up) is the trade union boss who, like the teamsters' leader

Jimmy Hoffa in real life, gets involved with hoodlums. Essentially, *F.I.S.T.* is just a spectacular morality story with Stallone as *The Godfather*, but, of its kind, it is undeniably well done.

● Colin Davis's four-part adaptation of Norman Collins's London Belongs to Me, already broadcast in the BBC World Service, gets off to a splendid start (Radio 4, 3.00pm). Thanks to many a deft touch, Eynud Williams's direction, all the characters in the house are already firmly in place in my imagination, and at the end of the first episode I was left with a genuine concern about their fates. Music highlight on radio tonight: the definitive 1872 version of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, with Yevdymov in the title role (Radio 3, 7.00pm).

Peter Davalle



US-bound on the QE2: Charles and Kay Culip (The Golden Voyage, BBC1, 9.40pm)

BBC1

- 6.30 *Cartoon* AM.
6.30 News headlines followed by *The Flintstones*. (7) 8.55
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman.
8.40 *Watchdog*. Michael Howard, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, is questioned on new consumer legislation by viewers and John Simpson. 8.55 Regional news and weather. 9.00 News.
9.05 *Day to Day*. Robert Kilroy-Glik and his studio audience discuss a topical matter. 9.45 *Advice Shop*. Mervyn MacDonnell with news of two ways in which to prepare your home for the winter cold. 10.00 *Neighbours*. (7)
10.20 *The Westsides*. (7) 10.25 Philip Schofield with children's television programme news. 10.30 *Play School*. (7) 10.50 *Henry's Cat*. (7)
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Catherine Giller with a thought for the day. 11.00 *Day Out*. With Angela Ripston in south Somerset. (7) 11.30 *Open Air*. Viewers have the chance to comment on television programmes.
12.20 *Championship Snooker*. Highlights from yesterday's matches in the Tennent's United Kingdom Championship. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. Weather. 1.25 *Neighbours*. Weekday soap seen in a Melbourne suburb. 1.50 *Little Misses*. Little Miss Trouble narrated by Pauline Collins and John Alderton.
2.00 *Film: A Piano for Mrs Cimino*. (1982) starring Bette Davis, Perry Feller, and George Hearn. A made-for-television drama about a widow who is diagnosed irreversibly senile, somewhat hesitantly in her view and also her grand-daughter's. Together they try to get the diagnosis reversed. Directed

by George Schaefer. 3.30 *Cartoon*. 3.40 *Save a Life*. A guide to emergency first aid. (7) *Cartoon*.
3.50 *Police House*. 4.00 *Animal Park*. 4.05 *Healthwatch* and Co. Cartoon adventures of an alien cat. 4.30 *Harvest*. Tony Hart's art class.
4.55 *John Craxie's Newsround*. 5.00 *The Children of Green Knowe*. Episode one of a new four-part adventure about a young man who is invited by his great grandmother to spend Christmas with her in her large and remote country house. Starring Alec Christie and Daphne Oxenford.
5.25 *Masterclass*.
6.00 *News* with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. Weather. London Plus.
6.25 *Wogan*. Tonight's guests include Mariel Hemingway, Ken Livingstone, and Stephen Bayley. Plus music from Alison Moyet.
7.35 *The Clothes Show* includes Solina Scott being snapped by fashion photographer Tony McGee. (7)
8.00 *Dallas*. J.R. and Bobby find their control of Ewing Oil threatened by Wes Farnsworth. (7)
8.50 *Points of View*.
9.00 *A Party Political Broadcast* by the SDP.
9.10 *News* with Julia Somerville and John Humphrys. Regional news and weather.
9.40 *The Visit*. A documentary made on the QE2 by members of the public who were on the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary, a half-a-century ago. (7) (see Choice)
10.30 *Sportscast* introduced by Steve Rider. Snooker: quarterfinal action in the Tennent's United Kingdom Championship; Boxing: the heavyweight bout between Horace and Proulx; Kilmarnock: Rowing: profiles of Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes. 12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

- 9.05 *Cartoon*.
9.10 *Daytime on Two* cleaning the River Clyde. 9.35 *Cartoon*. 10.00 *For four* and five-year olds. 10.15 *Science*. 10.30 *Science*. Infrared light and ultrasonic sound. 11.00 *Words and pictures*. 11.17 *Farming red deer* and salmon in Scotland. 11.40 *Women farmers* and new technology.
12.02 *Mathematics*. 12.25 *Working in the construction industry*. 12.48 *Spanish language course*. 1.10 *The state of English*. 1.28 *Comparing a one-man highland railway station with Glasgow Central*. 2.00 *Thinkabout*. 2.15 *Dutch and English schoolchildren celebrate Sinterklaas Day*.
2.35 *Championship Snooker*. Quarterfinal action in the Tennent's United Kingdom Championship. 3.55 *Regional news and weather*.
4.00 *Pennine Armstrong*. This afternoon's guests are Anthony Burgess and Carl Davis. Plus music from Marti Webb.
4.30 *Championship Snooker*. Further action from Preston. 5.30 *Cover to Cover* presented by Colin MacCabe. Actress Alexandra Pigg talks about the Mills and Boon library; there is a discussion on Steven Bach's *Final Cut*, the inside story of the multi-million dollar Hollywood flop, *Heaven's Gate*; and Redmond O'Hanlon talks about his trip to the Amazon.
6.00 *Film: The Russians (1984)* starring Glenn Ford and Henry Fonda. A comedy western about two horse wranglers who, try though they might, cannot attract the money they need to spend in luxurious retirement on a tropical island. Directed by Burt Kennedy.
7.20 *Cartoon*. Tax Aversy's *Screw Truant*. (7)
7.30 *BBC Design Awards* introduced by Janice Robinson and Christopher Frayling. A new competition for well-designed products, graphics, and designed space. 10.00 *Out of Court* presented by David Jessel and Sue Cook.
8.00 *M*A*S*H*. Henry arrives back from leave in Tokyo madly in love with a sweet young stunner. (7)
9.25 *Breaking Up*. Episode two of the four-part drama about the effect on a schoolboy of his parents' acrimonious divorce.
10.15 *The Trouble With Sex*. Christine Cox plays Mrs. Ibbotson in this dramatization aimed at debunking the myths about VD clinics, or genital-urinary clinics as they are now known. Mrs. Ibbotson has been referred to the Royal Hammersmith Hospital, Sheffield, by her GP, and is in need of caring, sensitive treatment.
10.45 *A Party Political Broadcast* by the SDP.
10.55 *Newsnight*. 11.40 Weather.

ITV LONDON

- 9.25 *Thames news headlines*.
9.30 *Schools: Maths* - the number 'ten' 9.42 *Energy-saving houses*. 9.59 *Maths* - images. 10.16 *Physics* - electron diffraction. 10.33 *Today in Prison*, a poem by Dennis Brutus. 11.00 *History: The Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia*. 11.22 *Music for celebrations*. 11.30 *A holiday in France*.
12.00 *The Gladys Gale Show*. (7) 12.30 *Spin Off*. Tim Brooke-Jones continues his exploration of interesting places made more accessible by the M25 Orbital Motorway.
1.00 *News* at 1.00 with John Suchet. 1.20 *Thames news*.
1.30 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama serial about a health clinic serving a rural Australian community. 2.30 *Fantastic Kitchen*. Grace Mulgan does wonders with a ham shank on the bone.
3.00 *Take the High Road*. Evidence gathered that there has been a prowler at both the Leach and Lett-Falch. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*.
4.00 *Thames The Tank Engine and Friends*, narrated by Ringo Starr. 4.10 *The Telford*. 4.20 *S.W.A.L.L.O.W.* David Balamy unravels another selection of obscure clues. 4.45 *Hold Tight* includes guests, Buddy Carless and the Grasshoppers, and the Ward Brothers. Presented by Jacqueline Radd, Michael Waterman and Peter Simon.
5.15 *Blockbusters*.
5.45 *News* with Alastair Stewart. 6.00 *Thames news*.
6.30 *Help! On the eve of the first international Community Architecture Conference, planners and designers answer viewers' questions.*
6.35 *Crossroads*. Benny is helped by Diana.
7.00 *This Is Your Life*. Eamonn

TV-AM

- 6.15 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30. 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. financial news at 6.35; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; exercises at 6.55; cartoon at 7.25; pop music at 7.55; and video report at 7.55. Also news guests include Petula Clark.
6.30 *Help! On the eve of the first international Community Architecture Conference, planners and designers answer viewers' questions.*
6.35 *Crossroads*. Benny is helped by Diana.
7.00 *This Is Your Life*. Eamonn

CHANNEL 4

- 2.15 *Their Lordships' House*. A repeat of last night's programme of highlights of the day's debates in the House of Lords.
2.30 *Film: The Gang's All Here* (1935) starring Jack Buchanan and Goggin Whelan. John Forster is brought out of early retirement from his insurance investigator's job when a fortune in jewels is stolen from his former firm's safe. Directed by Thornton Freeland.
4.00 *Movie on 4*. In this week's edition of *Presidents* movie Nicholson explores the problems of alcoholism.
4.30 *Countdown*. Yesterday's winner of the anagrams and mental arithmetic competition is challenged by Doreen Whyte from Eastleigh, Hampshire. Richard Whitley is the questionmaster, assisted by Bill Davis as adjudicator. 5.00 *Ice Skating*. The Tuborg British Figure Skating Championships, introduced by Nick Owen. The commentators are Simon Reed, Betty Callaway, and Nicky Slater.
5.30 *Hogan's Heroes*. Vintage American comedy series about a group of resourceful Allied prisoners-of-war who make life hell for their captors.
6.00 *The Abbott and Costello Show*. Bud and Lou go on a hunting trip and meet a very rare grizzly.
6.30 *In Time of War: Soldiers of the Rising Sun*. Excerpts from the anti-Japanese propaganda film - And Then Japan, and the history made Canadian-made *The Mask of Nippon*. (Crackle)
7.00 *Channel 4 News*. Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.
7.50 *Comment*. This week's political slot is filled by Gerry Neale, Conservative MP for North Cornwall. Weather.
8.00 *Looking into Paintings*. The first of a series of six programmes aimed to stimulate interest in visiting art galleries and museums, beginning with the Impressionists. (7) (Crackle)
8.30 *The New Enlightenment*. In part three of his series Professor Kenneth Minogue examines the way society makes the most of the potential of its people, looking in particular at the family and educational policy.
8.00 *Film: F.I.S.T.* (1978) starring Sylvester Stallone and Rod Taylor. Drama with Stallone as the leader of a trucking union battling to improve his members' conditions and also the unwelcome attentions of a rival union. Directed by Norman Jewison. (see Choice)
11.40 *Jocelyn Wildenstein in Performance* at the Snug Harbour Club, New Orleans.
12.10 *Their Lordships' House*. Ends at 12.25.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** *Wales* 8.55pm-9.00pm Wales Today. 9.05-9.10pm Wales Today. 9.10-9.15pm Wales Today. 9.15-9.20pm Wales Today. 9.20-9.25pm Wales Today. 9.25-9.30pm Wales Today. 9.30-9.35pm Wales Today. 9.35-9.40pm Wales Today. 9.40-9.45pm Wales Today. 9.45-9.50pm Wales Today. 9.50-9.55pm Wales Today. 9.55-10.00pm Wales Today. 10.00-10.05pm Wales Today. 10.05-10.10pm Wales Today. 10.10-10.15pm Wales Today. 10.15-10.20pm Wales Today. 10.20-10.25pm Wales Today. 10.25-10.30pm Wales Today. 10.30-10.35pm Wales Today. 10.35-10.40pm Wales Today. 10.40-10.45pm Wales Today. 10.45-10.50pm Wales Today. 10.50-10.55pm Wales Today. 10.55-11.00pm Wales Today. 11.00-11.05pm Wales Today. 11.05-11.10pm Wales Today. 11.10-11.15pm Wales Today. 11.15-11.20pm Wales Today. 11.20-11.25pm Wales Today. 11.25-11.30pm Wales Today. 11.30-11.35pm Wales Today. 11.35-11.40pm Wales Today. 11.40-11.45pm Wales Today. 11.45-11.50pm Wales Today. 11.50-11.55pm Wales Today. 11.55-12.00pm Wales Today. 12.00-12.05pm Wales Today. 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